Northwestern at 125

Commemorative Edition 1884 - 2009

Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Edited by Jerry Pierce, Steve Horton, Don Sepulvado and Tom Whitehead

N125
1884 - 2009

Since it was founded as the state's Normal School in 1884, Northwestern State University has established a far-reaching reputation for excellence in educating educators. When the school's academic mission was expanded in the early 19th century, NSU began preparing students for careers and professions in virtually every area of society.

The university offers more than 70 degree programs today and has grown from an initial class of 60 prospective teachers to a diverse, wide-ranging institution of more than 9,000 students in numerous academic programs. With campuses in Natchitoches, Shreveport, Alexandria and Leesville and an extensive electronic education network, the university is poised to continue its leadership role in higher education for years to come.

This book is a glimpse of the school's 125-year history and is published as a tribute to the 75,000 alumni of Normal and Northwestern and the teachers, coaches, administrators and friends of the university who are a part of its rich heritage.

In this keepsake publication are reminders of hundreds of people, places and events that should stir memories of their alma mater for Northwestern alumni across the world and reinforce their bonds to this historic old school.

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Commemorative Edition 1884 - 2009

Published on the 125th anniversary of
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana

Edited by Jerry Pierce, Steve Horton, Don Sepulvado and Tom Whitehead

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About the title picture: State Normal School Club (boarding) students were photographed in front of Bullard Mansion, ca. 1898. On the balcony of the original picture are current Northwestern State University students. First row from left are Tiffany Oyelawo, Carolyn Bernard, Molly McInnis, Jessi Nuss, Hannah Salter, Kaleigh McCord, Tiffany Foshee, and Dakota Byrd. Second row from left are Blake Guillory, Ronnie Washington, Nick Courville, Vanner Erikson, and Carson Martinez. Gary Hardamon photographed the current students, and the photographic illustration was created by Don Sepulvado.

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Bullard Mansion, ca. 1890

Acknowledgments

Many people and offices have been instrumental in preparing this chronology celebrating the 125th anniversary of Northwestern State University. Dan Strother, a graduate student in the master's degree program in heritage resources, and Sonny Carter of Eugene Watson Memorial Library spent a semester locating and scanning pictures depicting life at Normal, the College, and the University. These photographs came from several sources, including yearbooks, academic catalogs, personal collections and the Cammie G. Henry Research Center. Wes Jones scanned over a thousand negatives from the NSU News Bureau files.

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And most important, the editors thank the thousands who walked the Northwestern campus for the past 125 years, making abundant memories in their tracks.

LOUISIANA
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
NATCHITOCHES
LOUISIANA
THE ACADEMIC COURT

Foreword

Dear Friends,

Those of us who hold Northwestern—or Normal—near and dear have our individual stories as to how we came to know and love this unique and special institution. When people ask me how long I have been associated with Northwestern, I state quite simply, from birth. My father, Joe W. Webb, was a chemistry professor at Normal, and I was born in Corkern's Clinic, across the street from the campus.

In fact, Daddy was teaching here when a beautiful fifteen-year-old girl from Haynesville, named Narvis Maxine Almand, enrolled at Normal as a freshman in 1927. When she graduated in Primary Education, they were married in 1931, in the midst of The Great Depression.

My parents saw to it that I attended Homecoming and athletic events at Northwestern during my childhood and teen years, and that I had an appreciation for its alumni. It was only natural that I chose to attend college at NSC after I graduated from high school, because both my parents and other members of their families had chosen Northwestern years before. In fact, approximately fifty members of my family have attended school here over the years, including my wife Brenda, daughters Tamara and Lauren, and their husbands Reggie Gatewood and Nick Simokaitis, respectively.

It was at Homecoming and other Northwestern events during my younger years that I gained an appreciation for the importance of good teaching in the lives of people. Many people would tell me about Daddy's effectiveness in teaching a subject that virtually all of them feared. I learned that he did not just teach chemistry—he taught *students*. But first, he showed them he cared about them and that, regardless of their backgrounds in mathematics or science, or lack thereof; he would stand by them and spend time helping and encouraging them. More often than not, the students would please him and surprise themselves with their academic performance.

Because of its emphasis on excellence in teaching since its inception as the State Normal School, I have long felt Northwestern is in the life-changing business and should be proud of it. I tell our faculty they have the rare privilege of serving in possibly the noblest profession of all—teaching. It is the teacher who potentially can have the greatest positive influence on the life of a person, except for the parent. We should place a premium on outstanding teaching and be grateful for those who

are indeed changing students' lives for the better. I consider it an honor to be associated with an institution whose faculty and staff rank among the very best when it comes to teaching and serving students.

I listen to many people who attended this fine school or whose relatives or friends attended here. Some hold degrees from here, while others transferred elsewhere or chose not to continue the pursuit of a college degree. And, of course, many never attended here at all. It is gratifying that virtually all of the people with whom I talk have wonderful memories of their days here or can tell you how much their friends or relatives enjoyed this very special and unique place. Those who graduated here are especially proud of it and are grateful to people who helped them along the way; others wish they had attended or finished here, simply because it is held in such high esteem by people.

I enrolled at Northwestern in summer school, right after graduating from Haynesville High School. In those halcyon days, new male freshmen suffered a variety of indignities, such as having their heads shaved and wearing a beanie cap that identified each by name and station in college life: "Dog Webb" in my case. Upperclassmen pretty well controlled, humiliated, and shamed us to their hearts' content. And, I will not even talk about the experiences of new freshmen who endured summer football, living in East Caspari among the more mature football players. What wonderful days those were!

Female freshman students were treated on a higher plane than males, of course, but they, too, came to know their places in a hurry. Wearing pigtails and garb they would not normally wear in public and helping upper-class male and female students torment the male freshmen were some of their "responsibilities" as they moved into young womanhood. All of us who were subjected to the torturous whims of our older classmates welcomed the second term of attendance with increased hope and optimism. Finally, we had the chance to become members of the human race!

I cannot imagine subjecting the college students of today to this kind of treatment! For one thing, they themselves probably wouldn't stand for it; and their parents surely wouldn't. Yet I think those of us who attended college in that bygone era gained something valuable from the experience. For example, we learned the importance of humility, regardless of our stations in life outside of the college campus. And, although we may have resented both the treatment and the

perpetrators at times, we knew that we freshmen had to stick together and support one another while subjugating ourselves to the whims of our more mature classmates. And, I came to appreciate an important tenet to which many of us who have the privilege of working at Northwestern today strive to adhere: Take your work and the needs of people around you seriously, but try never to take yourself too seriously. In other words, have a good sense of humor in the midst of serious work and feel comfortable laughing at yourself, because it is just possible others may be laughing at you.

A nostalgic walk through some of the annals of this venerable institution would be incomplete without mentioning the Louisiana Tech/Northwestern annual football game at the Louisiana State Fair in Shreveport. This was a happening for our area of the state, one that, at least in our minds, rivaled the Oklahoma/Texas game at the Texas State Fair in Dallas that continues until this day. If I had the power, I would reinstate this game that had the aura of big-time football among almost backyard rivals, because students of today and our younger alumni would benefit from participation in this kind of experience.

Both schools eagerly anticipated this annual event, for that is precisely what it was. The respective student government associations diligently planned for the Tech/Northwestern Weekend in Shreveport; students honored their fellow students by electing courts of young women students that were escorted by young men at the game; Northwestern students were at a fever pitch throughout the week of the game and "Wreck Tech" bumper stickers and other paraphernalia were everywhere; students and organizations made big plans for the trip to Shreveport and the parties on Friday and Saturday and the dances Saturday night after the game; and Saturday afternoon huge Tech and Northwestern pep rallies were held simultaneously on opposite sides of the Caddo Parish Court House in downtown Shreveport. And, oh yes, the hotly contested game occurred that evening! Those of us who had the rare privilege of participating in this remarkable annual occurrence will never forget the preparation, anticipation, and fun-filled activities associated with this very special weekend. And, if we beat Tech, we all awaited the President's announcement that there would be no school Monday at Northwestern. Although the Tech/Northwestern rivalry rose to a high competitive level, it also led to some wonderful inter-institutional friendships among supporters. Both schools and their students, employees, towns, alumni, and friends would reap significant benefits if we could re-kindle this good-natured rivalry.

Entrance to Normal Hill, 1900s

Yes, Northwestern has a storied history filled with traditions of the past, some of which have gone by the wayside over the years. But this university has never lost sight of its heritage in teacher education and all that implies about excellence in teaching and teacher/student relations. While many other original normal schools in the United States have chosen to distance themselves from their origins in their quests for more comprehensive roles, Northwestern celebrates its founding principles; indeed, its mission statement indicates that excellence in teaching is the highest institutional priority. It is this commitment that enables our university to boast of outstanding academic offerings—every eligible degree program is nationally accredited—and to lead the state of Louisiana in the courses and programs delivered electronically. We are a university that reveres and builds upon its memorable past, yet is state-of-the-art in its planning and applications as we strive toward premier university status.

This institution, which has been a home away from home for so many people through the years, has a remarkable history, beginning with its founding in 1884 as the State Normal School and continuing through its various developmental stages: Louisiana State Normal College (1921), Northwestern State College (1944), and Northwestern State University (1970). *N125* provides a delightful pictorial history down Northwestern's Memory Lane and reminds us all that our heritage is rich and enduring. It provides tangible evidence that this university does not lose sight of the legacy handed us by founders, board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends whose contributions to our state, country, and world instill a deep sense of pride and appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Randall J. Webb
President

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
EDUCATIO ADULESCENTIS EST CIVITATIS SALUS
1884
LOUISIANA STATE NORMAL COLLEGE
1921
NORTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE
UNION JUSTICE & CONFIDENCE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
1944
NORTHWESTERN STATE
1970
University of Louisiana
N125orthwestern
1884 - 2009

Northwestern at 125

By Jerry Pierce

Northwestern State University is vibrant and stable in its 125th year, steeled by the triumphs and tribulations of its long history and fortified by the thousands of people whose lives the old school has touched and who, in turn, became part of the institution.

Since it was founded in 1884 as the State Normal School for the preparation of teachers, Northwestern has expanded over the decades to become a comprehensive, multi-faceted university with a statewide, national and even worldwide impact and influence.

Natchitoches was selected as the site for the school in large part because of the tenacity and political clout of Capt. Leopold Caspari, a state representative who had been a Confederate officer in the Civil War.

But another major factor in the establishment of the Normal School in Natchitoches was the availability of the land and a few buildings that had served as the Convent of the Sacred Heart. One of those structures was the Bullard Mansion with the huge columns that have become the symbol of the university.

Natchitoches had an important and impressive history even in 1884 that helped make the community a logical and acceptable site for such an ambitious undertaking as the creation of a school to prepare young people for teaching careers.

The town was established in 1714 in French Louisiana and had already become recognized as the oldest settlement in the 15-state Louisiana Purchase territory. Natchitoches had been incorporated as a town since 1819.

By the time Capt. Caspari began his campaign in the halls of the legislature to establish the Normal School in Natchitoches, that area of the state was growing and prosperous. The new school would be surrounded by sprawling cotton farms and stately plantation homes.

So Natchitoches and the school that would evolve into today's Northwestern became pioneers in higher education in Louisiana at a time when there were no public colleges in Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Ruston, Lafayette, Hammond, Lake Charles and other communities where there are universities now.

In addition to the buildings and grounds from the old convent, the Natchitoches site offered numerous shade trees and several ground cisterns to provide an abundant supply of water. It was also "fairly accessible by river and rail."

That information, provided in Dr. Marietta LeBreton's history of the university during its centennial year of 1984, helps put into perspective the circumstances and conditions of the age and era in which the foundation was formed for Northwestern.

It had been less than 20 years since the end of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Grover Cleveland was elected president that year. There were no cars or air conditioning. There was not yet a World Series in baseball. Ballpoint pens had not been invented.

Drawing class, ca. 1910

Drafting class, ca. 1977

Tuition was free for the first class of students that enrolled at Normal in the fall of 1885, but they had to provide their own textbooks. Although there were still no tuition charges a dozen years later, the cost for books had soared to $20. Housing was $100 a semester and laundry services were $12 for each term.

Students at the 19th century Normal School faced stringent dress codes and disciplinary regulations. Details of those rigid policies have been handed down in letters, catalogs and informal historical accounts of Northwestern's early years.

School officials used rulers to assure that the hems of young ladies' dresses were close enough to the floor. Women were rarely allowed to be in the company of males without chaperones. There were strict, vigorously enforced curfews to keep students from engaging in undesirable activities.

One rule for students was a prohibition against squashing bugs on their beds. The policy stated specifically that "bugs should never be mashed on mattresses, as they are usually gorged with blood and stain the mattress. They should be put on the floor and crushed with the foot."

Another policy outlawed hanging any kind of undergarments outside of buildings to dry. Going to downtown Natchitoches to shop was allowed two days a week from 3 p.m. until sunset. Church attendance was mandatory, and ladies attending services at night had to be accompanied by a faculty member.

Students were advised in an early school catalog not to bring any medicines to campus, "especially chloroform, morphine or laudanum," and parents were told in the publication that "it is harmful for students to have too much spending money." Today's parents might appreciate that suggestion from the school.

A father who was sending his daughter to the Normal from South Louisiana one fall semester wrote a formal letter to the president asking that the head of the school meet the young lady at the train depot in Cypress to accompany her to the campus. It was apparently common in those days for presidents to pick students up at nearby railroad stations.

The alumni, friends, parents of former students and others in the expansive Northwestern family who celebrate the school's 125th anniversary this year might find it difficult to relate to the social aspects of the old Normal School, but they will be familiar with many of the people, places and events pictured in this publication.

This anniversary book is certainly not intended to document the university's long history or to chronicle or certify the many and manifold activities, programs, individuals and endeavors that have formed Northwestern over a century and a quarter.

It simply offers snippets and snapshots of moments, occasions, people and places that should evoke memories for those who have been a part of the school's history and serve as a reminder of their time at this venerable, majestic university.

In this kaleidoscope of fragments from the school's twelve and a half decades are buildings from the past and present, pep rallies, changing styles of cars and apparel, classroom scenes, libraries, science labs, commencement programs, professors and coaches, sororities, fraternities, gymnasts, synchronized swimmers, art galleries, athletes, bands, orchestras, theater productions, rodeos, shaved heads, beanies, cadets, cheerleaders, Demonaires, dances, faces of famous visitors, Demon mascots, bonfires, friends, State Fair games, dormitories, beauty pageants and even legendary ghosts for those with the propensity for seeing such things.

There are sights and scenes of the institution from its Normal School days and through the years as the school progressed to Louisiana State Normal College, then Northwestern State College and, finally, Northwestern State University.

The Normal School offered just two-year teacher preparation degrees from 1885 until 1918, when baccalaureate programs were initiated. That significant academic advancement resulted in the legislature's changing the name of the school in 1921 to Louisiana State Normal College.

Academic programs and public service initiatives increased dramatically at the school over the next two decades, and the name was changed again to reflect the expanded scope and mission of the institution, this time to Northwestern State College in 1944.

After Northwestern added graduate degrees and became more prominent in higher education across the state and region, the institution was granted university status by the legislature in 1970, becoming Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Though the university's name, status and services have changed over the decades, the excellent, diverse and highly respected academic programs that have been the very bedrock of the school since its inception are still strong and innovative and have been continually expanded and enhanced.

The education program upon which the school was founded has produced thousands of teachers over the years and continues to be recognized as one of the most notable and effective in the state and across the South in preparing people for careers in education.

Northwestern graduates have been teachers, administrators and coaches in schools and school systems throughout Louisiana for decades, creating and maintaining for the university a substantial impact on education at every level in the state.

Normal student body, ca. 1920

Nursing at NSU has been a pre-eminent program in Louisiana and across the South since it was established in the 1940s. The program was cited by *Modern Healthcare* magazine in 2008 as the largest in Louisiana and the fourth largest in the nation.

The College of Business, which traces its roots to the 1930s, has outstanding accounting and business administration programs, and the computer information systems component has captured national championships in academic competition.

Northwestern assumed an exciting and unique new statewide academic role in higher education in 1987, when the Board of Regents established the Louisiana Scholars' College here as the state's only honors college in the liberal arts and sciences.

The university has offered degrees in numerous and wide-ranging other areas, including criminal justice, English, history, music, art, anthropology, geography, heritage resources, sociology, journalism, political science, social work, psychology, biology, chemistry, early childhood education, electronic engineering technology, family and consumer sciences, health and exercise sciences, health and physical education, hospitality management and tourism, mathematics and physics.

Students at NSU can enroll in pre-professional programs such as medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, engineering, veterinary medicine, law, physical therapy and physician's assistant.

The extensive educational complex on Northwestern's main campus in Natchitoches has included through the years laboratory schools and facilities for pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle school and junior high students.

Normal Hall, ca. 1899

In addition, buildings on the campus that were once occupied by Natchitoches High School are now part of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, a state residential school for academically gifted and artistically talented students.

So there have been times during Northwestern's history as a trailblazer in education in North Louisiana when an individual could enroll in pre-school and kindergarten programs and progress through the educational process to obtain a doctoral degree without ever leaving the campus.

Northwestern solidified long ago its leadership role in higher education in Louisiana by developing not only the comprehensive main campus in Natchitoches but also campuses in Shreveport, Alexandria and Leesville-Fort Polk and instructional sites in a number of other North-Central Louisiana communities.

That outreach has been expanded dramatically in recent years to include an extensive distance learning system that has given the university an international presence in higher education. Students from around the globe have enrolled in its distance learning program, the largest in Louisiana.

The university reached a significant milestone in 2006, when a student from Indiana, Kristen Shoemaker, received a bachelor's degree in psychology after completing course work exclusively on the Internet. Her trip to Natchitoches to receive a diploma was the first time she had seen the Northwestern campus.

NSU's use of sophisticated high-tech resources to expand academic offerings reflects the innovative spirit of the school that was a pioneer in closed circuit television instruction more than a half century ago.

This revered school that started in a vacated convent with just two teachers and 60 students is a massive, multifarious tapestry now on its 125th anniversary of all the people from every walk of life and different parts of the world who have become a part of NSU's heritage.

Prominent in the anniversary portrait of Northwestern are the thousands of young people who came to the Natchitoches campus over the decades as traditional students pursuing the dream of a college education and all of the new experiences that college life offered and the opportunities that their education promised.

Many of them were introduced to the university when they visited from their high schools for scholastic rallies, NSU Relays track meets, cheerleader and band clinics, sports camps, FFA and FBLA events, science fairs, arts festivals and other activities that helped forge such a strong, lasting bond between Northwestern and high schools throughout Louisiana.

Generations of those young people were drawn back to Northwestern as students by the beauty and magnetism of the 916-acre campus with its grand buildings of French and Colonial architecture, gentle hills, towering pines, moss-draped ancient oaks, flowers, fountains and open fields, pastures and lab school playgrounds, manicured gardens and plazas, ornate lampposts and a retired old brick power plant smokestack that stands high above the campus as a reminder of different times.

The splendor of the campus is complemented by the continual symphony and sound track of barking squirrels, singing, chanting birds and squealing wild ducks and other waterfowl that come and go on the little lake that hugs the edge of the campus.

Students arrived in those beautiful surroundings as uneasy, apprehensive freshmen from little places like Shongaloo, Florien, Waterproof, Bunkie and Ville Platte, from New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport and other big cities and from Texas, Mississippi and surrounding states.

Many of them came with their clothes in brown paper grocery bags and cardboard boxes. They had vouchers for fifty-dollar scholarships from their legislators back home and promises of jobs at the campus dairy or library or dining hall.

Some of the freshmen were following in the footsteps of their parents, brothers, sisters and other kinfolks who had attended Northwestern, but many of those children of farmers, fishermen, teachers and mill workers were the first in their families to enroll in college.

They stood in line to register at Caldwell Hall, filling out the multi-colored cards that were required to proceed through the inflexible registration process. The color of their cards—green or blue or yellow—depended upon their academic major.

Signatures were required from advisors, department heads and deans, and there were no shortcuts in the days before computers and pre-registration. Freshmen struggled dazed and confused through registration for classes with the names of subjects, buildings and professors that were a mystery to them.

But they soon found their way to classrooms in Caldwell, the men's and women's gymnasiums, Guardia, Warren Easton, the business and home economics buildings and Bullard Hall and to the dormitories, library, dining hall, student center and other places at the school that would become their home for a while.

Male students could not escape the clippers and safety razors of upperclassmen that wasted little time each fall in shaving the heads of freshmen. They would be informally but forcefully classified as "dogs" throughout their first year of college.

The purple and white beanie caps they were required to wear on their bald heads made them conspicuous on campus. Even Clint Eastwood would have looked like a nerd in one of those caps, which provided strong incentives for freshmen in those days to study hard, get to be sophomores and ditch the beanies.

Athletic Association, ca. 1906

Many students had to overcome the lonely, homesick feeling of being separated from their families, boyfriends, girlfriends and high school classmates, but most of them quickly embraced college life and the freedom, fun and new responsibility that it offered.

They settled into classes, became comfortable in dormitories or off-campus apartments and pursued other interests. Some were athletes, cheerleaders and band members. Others worked at the *Current Sauce* school newspaper, *Potpourri* yearbook, *Argus* literary magazine or KNWD campus radio station.

Many were attracted to drama and dance programs, orchestras, choirs, gymnastics, ROTC, the synchronized swimming team, beauty pageants, fraternities and sororities, service groups like Blue Key and Purple Jackets, the Black Knights precision drill team with their spit-shined boots and other activities that enriched their days at Northwestern.

There were stops for early morning coffee at the old Student Center and later the Student Union on the way to eight o'clock classes, weekly dances where students jitterbugged and slow dance hugged to the music of the Demonaires student band, receptions in the fancy parlor of Varnado Hall and even occasionally at the President's Home and worship services at downtown churches and campus religious centers like the Baptist Student Union, Wesley Foundation and Newman Club.

Hamburger and milk shake money was won or lost most nights in bourrée games at the Brick Shack, Rebel Hall and other dorms. Footballs and Frisbees flew in the fields around A, B, C and D Frames, old military barracks that had been converted to men's residence halls. Couples had long talks on the front steps of Agnes Morris, Carondelet, Kate Chopin and other women's dormitories.

A good bit of the courting on campus took place at the library, because girls could extend the curfew at their dorms if they were at the library studying. Some guys spent many nights of their college careers at the library without ever taking a book off the shelves.

The campus infirmary also became a popular place at times on nights before big tests. Students who were not prepared for those exams would talk nurses into admitting them to the infirmary with measles, mumps and a variety of other diseases that gave them an excuse to put off the tests.

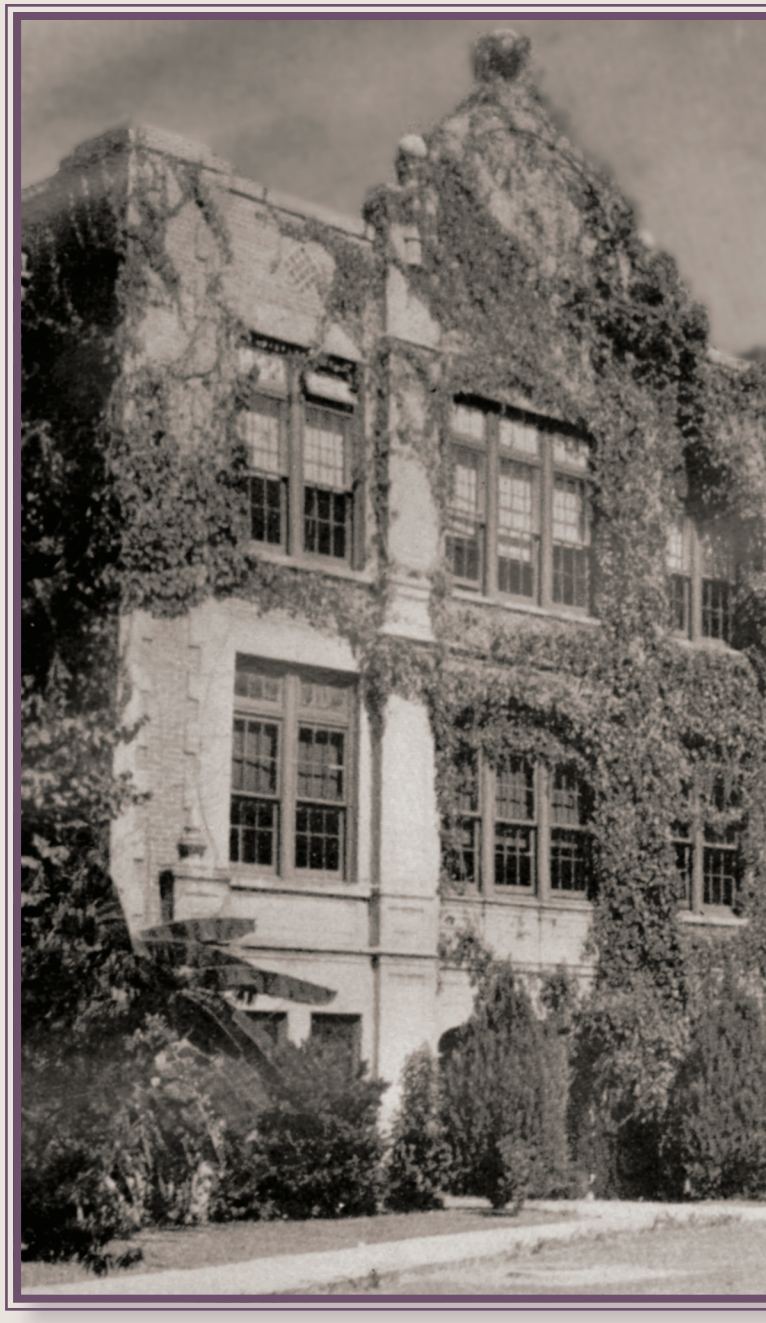
Many students fell in love, married and started families during their college days at Northwestern. They lived in the barracks-style Vets Town apartments on campus, got part time jobs and sold Coke bottles to pay the bills.

They arranged academic schedules that allowed them to hand off their babies to each other as they alternated time in classes. When a Vets Town couple started a fire in their barbecue grill, neighbors showed up with hamburger meat and hot dogs to save the cost of charcoal.

Students who were serious about classes and their preparations to become teachers, coaches, nurses, accountants or for other careers still found time to enjoy college life and to squeeze a lot of fun out of their Northwestern years.

It was not unusual for some guys returning to their dorms in the early morning from social activities to meet in the hallways with others who were up before dawn on their way to milk cows for their jobs at the dairy. Those jobs had benefits like free ice cream.

A lot of students looked for entertainment and excitement away from the campus. They parked at Grand Ecore, went to movies at the old Don and Cane theaters, ate greasy hamburgers at the Rendezvous and chili at the Circle Café, made out and fought mosquitoes at the Chief drive-in theater, played snooker at some local pool halls, checked out the night clubs on Black Lake, water-skied on Cane River, partied at Shell Beach, dived off Pratt's Bridge and snuggled on blankets at Christmas Festival fireworks shows.



Ivy-covered Guardia Hall, ca. 1930

Many students have lined up in their cars and pickups over the years for longnecks, frozen concoctions and wine in screw-top bottles from the old Maggio's Drive-Through on Jackson Square and later from the newer store on Highway 1 South.

One student liked to tell the story, and there's no telling how many shared the experience, of getting a call from home asking why he had written so many checks to some place called Maggio's. He tried unsuccessfully to convince his parents that Maggio's was a bookstore in town where he bought materials for classes.

Pretty coeds used to line the banks of Chaplin's Lake that borders the campus in their shorts and swimsuits to work on their tans, and guys occasionally ran over traffic signs, bushes and small trees as they drove by to get a glimpse of the sunbathers.

Tanning and traffic subsided along the lake in the mid 1970s when students assessed themselves a fee to build a sprawling recreation complex with an 18-hole golf course and an Olympic-size swimming pool that gave young ladies a more desirable place to bask in the sun.

There were some incidents over the years that aroused the frustration and fury of Campus Security and school administrators like the night red Jell-O powder was dumped into the natatorium pool and the time a bunch of athletes put the Volkswagen in the balcony of the Fine Arts Auditorium.

The decorative pond near Caldwell was stocked with beautiful goldfish, but it often became an aquarium of varied species as students deposited turtles, bullfrogs and big catfish into it. School officials tolerated that but were riled one morning when an imported alligator was sunning on the concrete rim of the pond.

A college president on the way to his office in Caldwell was bombarded from an upper floor with rotten eggs. Bill Dodd, who became the state's lieutenant governor, never admitted guilt in the incident, but he always laughed when asked to deny it.

Obviously bored guys in one dorm determined that they could drop a lighted cherry bomb into an upstairs commode, flush it and blow up a commode on the first floor. College plumbers learned to keep extra commodes in that dorm's storage room.

Most dorms had older ladies who served as directors but were called “house mothers.” Some of the dorm directors were stern and aloof, but others cooked big pots of gumbo or mulligan and fried fish for everybody in the dorms when guys brought back ducks, squirrels and bass from hunting and fishing trips.

Fellows in one residence hall had been told not to worry about making noise or breaking rules, because their house mother could not hear a train wreck. They tested it by setting off several entire packages of firecrackers at the door of her apartment one night.

The blasts reverberated across the dorm and campus. The house director stepped out of her room after a while and told guys who were hanging around awaiting a reaction that they needed to check for a fire because she smelled smoke.

A freshman from somewhere up north stayed in that dorm for a while but never shared the other residents’ passion for outdoors activities and wildlife. After he threw back the sheets on his bed one night to be greeted by a live raccoon, he caught a bus out of town the next morning and was never seen on the campus again.

Some upperclassmen got their freshman “dogs” in trouble one semester when they forced them to make frequent trips to a crude, homemade mini-brewery in the woods near the dairy barn to pick up gallon size A&W root beer jugs of terrible beer and take it back to the dorms.

Campus Security discovered and destroyed the brewery one night, nabbed the freshmen and hauled them to Dean of Students Dudley Fulton. The dogs spent a lot of time under scrutiny and on probation but never revealed the names of upperclassmen who built the brewery.

Another group of students decided to have a big campus-wide dance if the football team won its game one weekend. The team won, and the high-priced band from Shreveport that had been lined up in advance played into the early morning hours.

But nobody had made arrangements to pay the band, whose members banged on the door of the president’s home in the middle of the night demanding their money. Dr. John Kyser had to write them a personal check.

There were several panty raids on campus in the days when such activities were popular, and Dean of Women Lucile Hendrick was never able to positively identify the guys and girls that instigated them despite her vigorous efforts.

During the streaking craze when folks would get naked and run around in public places, a 6-foot-9, 285-pound athlete stripped and streaked through the dining hall. There were hundreds of student witnesses who all told police they did not recognize the culprit.

These incidents and narratives and thousands more like them over 125 years became part of the lore and legend of this historic school, where traditions, customs and routines have been a cherished, time-honored part of campus life.

One of the school's enduring traditions is the legend of the ghost Isabella, a beautiful French girl who was so distraught over the dueling death of the young man that she loved that she entered the convent in Natchitoches to become a nun. Her grief was so deep that she remained virtually secluded during her years at the convent, never associating with other sisters of the order and venturing out only at night under the cloak of darkness.

One morning after a violent storm raged through the convent, she was found dead in her room. Beside her was a knife, and her bloody handprint was on the wall. The ghost of the young maiden was seen clearly from time to time, and the spirit moved to a women's dormitory and later to the Music Building after the old convent structure was demolished.

Students captivated by the story of Isabella have participated in elaborate ceremonies to transfer the ghost from the Music Building to Caldwell Hall and later to the oldest building on campus, the former Women's Gym, when Caldwell burned.

It is appropriate that the old gym, where Isabella currently resides, has become a national center specializing in preserving historic structures and perhaps even in perpetuating and protecting supernatural spirits like Northwestern's campus ghost.

There are reported sightings of Isabella occasionally when a student sees an unusual wisp of smoke or fog near the buildings that she has inhabited. Isabella has remained genial over the years if she is still around, for there have been no reports of ghostly attacks or assaults on students, faculty or visitors.

Lady of the Bracelet pageants are another abiding tradition at NSU. Winners of those events, which date back to 1959, when Kahne Dipola was selected as the first Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet, represent the university in annual competition for the title of Miss Louisiana.

Mr. and Miss NSU elections have been a ritual at the school for more than half a century. Students who are involved in campus activities and popular with classmates have been elected to those honors every year since 1956, when the titles were bestowed upon Dick Brown and Billie Sunshine Walker Odgen.

Competition in intercollegiate athletics and all that goes along with it have been a tradition at Northwestern for more than a century. In 2007, in fact, the school commemorated its 100th year of football. Part of that celebration was the recognition of the Top 100 Players of the Century at NSU, and the list included a number of former Demons who went on to stardom in the pros.

Northwestern joined other colleges across the country in the late 1960s in celebrating the first century of football in America and came up with a unique way to observe that anniversary when band director J. Robert Smith found out that a New York songwriter named Bernie Wayne had written a song about 100 years of football.

He arranged through Wayne's agent and publicist to have the songwriter come to Natchitoches to lead the NSU band as it played his song at halftime of a game marking the anniversary. The photos the agent provided for publicity must have been made decades earlier, because Wayne was much older than he appeared in the pictures and obviously frail.

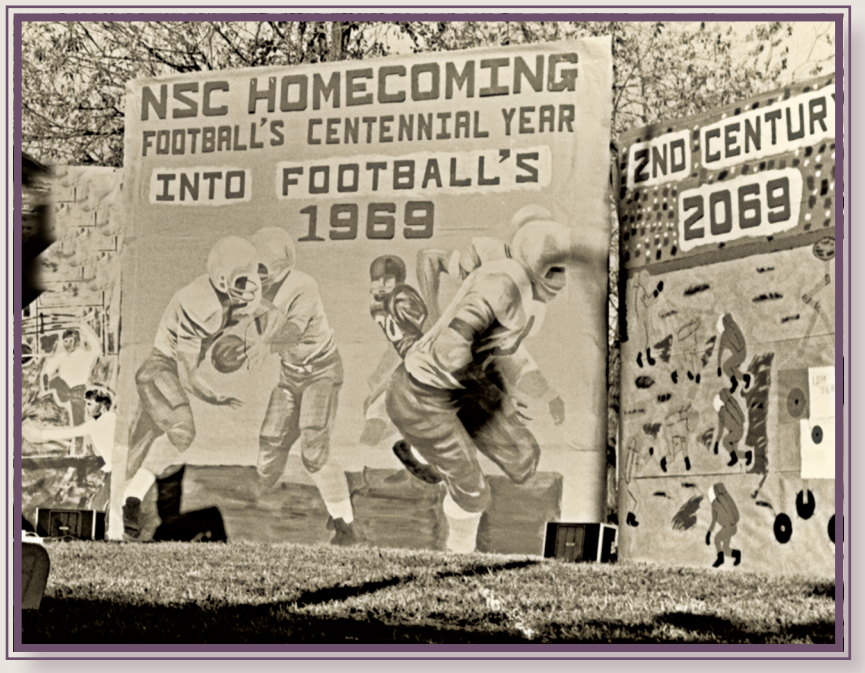
The plan was for Wayne to stand on an elevated platform in front of the fans, lead the band and then turn around and throw some autographed footballs to folks in the stadium. He waved his arms at the band a few times as it played his song and tossed some footballs with all his might toward the stadium seats several yards away. As the balls floated a few feet from the platform without reaching the stands, a muscular cheerleader caught them and threw them high into the stadium as if the whole thing had been planned that way.

Undefeated seasons in 1939 and 1966 stand out in the history of Northwestern football, along with a number of championships in various conferences and some national playoff appearances, but the school's most colorful football tradition was its State Fair rivalry against Louisiana Tech.

Students, alumni and fans from both schools packed State Fair Stadium in Shreveport for the more than 40 battles in the series. There were numerous campus events the week of the game like bonfires, parades, pep rallies and other activities to whip students into a frenzy for the contests.

The pandemonium and clamor of Tech Week celebrations on the campus carried over to the Washington-Youree Hotel that was NSU's Shreveport headquarters for State Fair activities, and to the Progressive Men's Club, where a lot of students celebrated wins or drowned the sorrow of defeats after the games.

One year some aviation students at Northwestern even decided to fly over the Tech campus in Ruston and bombard the school with "Wreck Tech" leaflets. But their navigation was off, and they dumped the flyers on the Grambling campus a few miles away.



Homecoming football display, 1969

Fans at a State Fair game in the 1960s were surprised to see Northwestern show up in black and gold uniforms instead of their traditional purple and white. Equipment managers failed to pack the team's game gear, so uniforms that were the wrong colors and a couple of sizes too small on most players were borrowed from Fair Park High School.

That created a problem for Northwestern assistant coach Slim Howell. When Northwestern scored early in the game, he threw his headset to the floor and shouted some expletives about giving up a touchdown so quickly. He had to be reminded that it was his own Demons in the unfamiliar black and gold uniforms who had scored.

Northwestern also has a rich history in men's basketball, dating back to H. Lee Prather's long coaching era from 1913 to 1950. Students at the school used to get sandwiches in brown paper bags from the dining hall and line up hours before games to get a spot in the little 1,000-seat men's gym.

There have been a number of successful teams and outstanding players through the decades, but Demon basketball reached new heights in recent years with conference tournament victories that led to NCAA tournament appearances.

In the 2006 post-season tournament, Jermaine Wallace hit an astounding last-second shot to defeat highly favored and 15th- ranked Iowa. Fans nationwide picked the shot as the Pontiac Game-Changing Performance, which resulted in a $100,000 endowed scholarship for NSU.

Baseball and track and field have also brought the university extensive positive attention with league championships and some noteworthy individual accolades, such as spots in the Olympics for triple jumpers LaMark Carter and Kenta Bell and a national championship for high jumper Brian Brown.

Northwestern's 4x100 meter relay team of Victor Oatis, Joe Delaney, Mario Johnson and Mark Duper also won an NCAA Division 1 national championship in 1981.

Gymnastics teams at Northwestern won three consecutive NAIA and NCAA national championships from 1968 through 1970 and created extensive interest among NSU students, many of whom had never seen competition on parallel bars, vaulting horses, rings and other gymnastics events.

Northwestern was a pioneer in the state and nation in providing opportunities for women in intercollegiate athletics. Sports programs for women date back to the 1920s at NSU, which was one of the first schools in Louisiana to offer athletic scholarships for women.

Lady Demon basketball, softball and soccer teams have won conference championships and advanced to national tournaments through the years, and individuals in volleyball and track and field have been selected for prestigious honors.

Rowing is a club sport at NSU, one of the smallest universities in the nation to offer men's and women's crew competition. Cane River, the 34-mile stream that runs through Natchitoches, offers such ideal conditions for rowing that crews from Notre Dame, Michigan State, Tennessee, Kansas, Texas and other major universities have come to NSU and Natchitoches for spring training.

Thousands of students and coaches have participated in NSU athletics for more than a century, and some earned extraordinary recognition and success worthy of mention during and after their careers at the university.

Jackie Smith was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Gary Reasons and Joe Delaney were named to the national College Football Hall of Fame. Former coaches Armando Vega and Jeff Hennessy are in the national Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Delaney was fast becoming a major NFL star with the Kansas City Chiefs when he died as a hero in 1983 attempting to save three children from drowning in a lake at Monroe. He was posthumously presented the Presidential Citizens Award from President Ronald Reagan for that act of heroism.

Former athletes Gayle Hatch and Barry Rubin are in the USA Strength and Conditioning Coaches Hall of Fame, and Hatch was head weightlifting coach for the U.S. Olympic team in 2004. Gymnast Richard Loyd performed in the 1968 Olympics.

Ricardo Acuna, a Northwestern tennis star in the 1970s, made it to the quarterfinals of the Wimbledon championships in 1985. Former Demon basketball player Mike Brey became a successful head basketball coach at Notre Dame. Lee Arthur Smith, who played basketball at Northwestern, was one of the top relief pitchers in major league baseball history and appears headed to the Hall of Fame at Cooperstown. Football and track star Charley Hennigan became the first pro player in history with more than 100 receptions in a season and still holds two NFL receiving records.

Northwestern has retired the jerseys of only 18 athletes in its long history. On that elite list are Bobby Hebert, Gary Reasons, Al Dodd, Joe Delaney and Jackie Smith in football; Red Thomas, Johnny McConathy and Vernon Wilson in men's basketball; Pam Hudson, Lonnie Banks, Teressa Thomas and Linda Grayson in women's basketball; Ginger Craig and Ronda Rube in softball; and Billie Roy Cook, Jim Wells, Jim Willis and Brian Lawrence in baseball.

One of the continuing customs of Northwestern athletics is the presentation of Chief Caddo to the winner of the annual football game between NSU and Stephen F. Austin University. The 7-foot-6, 320-pound wooden Indian chief is the biggest trophy in college football.

Named to honor the Indian tribe that settled both Natchitoches and Nacogdoches, Texas, where Stephen F. Austin is located, the trophy originated in the early 1960s when SFA provided a 2,000-pound black gum log and Northwestern commissioned Harold Green of Logansport to carve the chief.

A long-standing tradition in itself, Northwestern's nickname of Demons started in 1922. The school had participated in sports for more than a decade without a nickname when a contest was held on campus to come up with a moniker for athletic teams.

There was a $10 prize, and students submitted a long list of names including Spartans, Warriors, Daredevils, Emperors, Cubs, Groundhogs, Cyclops, Wasps and Rattlesnakes. The two finalists for the school's nickname were Demons and Braves.

Northwestern, by the way, is the only college or university in the nation with the nickname Demons. Sports teams at some other schools are called Blue Demons, Blue Devils and Demon Deacons, but NSU has the only nickname of just plain Demons.

Athletics has been just one of numerous realms of involvement that enhance campus life and provide possibilities for students to expand their experiences beyond the academic environment of classrooms and laboratories.

There are usually more than 90 active organizations that offer diverse cultural, educational and social activities for students, including an extensive Greek system that presents opportunities for social interaction, meaningful service and the development of lifelong friendships.

Thousands of students have been involved in fraternity and sorority life since the 1920s, when Greek organizations began replacing literary societies and similar groups at the school. Delta Zeta became the first national sorority on campus in 1927, and Sigma Tau Gamma was the earliest fraternity in 1929.

There have been nearly 20 Greek-lettered organizations at NSU over the decades, including several historically black groups that began when Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were chartered in 1972.

On-campus housing for fraternities and sororities dates back to 1942, when Sigma Sigma Sigma moved into a new lodge near the center of the campus. By the 1970s, several of the organizations had moved into houses in an area on the west side of campus that became known as Greek Hill.

Kappa Sigma fraternity opened an on-campus residential facility overlooking Chaplin's Lake in 1988. A Baptist Collegiate Ministries building was completed nearby in 2009, and ground was broken the same year for a Phi Mu Sorority chapter house in the area called Organization Row.

Some Greek groups have maintained off-campus houses over the years. Kappa Alpha Order, for example, has occupied a house in the city's National Historic Landmark District since 1972. That facility atop a hill on Second Street gives fraternity members and their guests an excellent venue to observe events like Christmas Festival parades, local Mardi Gras and Jazz Festival activities and other revelry.

One year a fraternity member, just for the heck of it, sailed a half-filled Styrofoam bowl of gumbo like a Frisbee toward the passing Christmas Festival parade. The missile flew into the tuba of a band member playing a lively Christmas carol, and the fallout that incident created between the fraternity and the band's school continued through the holidays.

Security officers started appearing at the Kappa Alpha house on days of major events that attracted big crowds to town, but it has never been determined whether they are there to protect fraternity property from the throngs or to defend the crowds against airborne bowls of gumbo.

But Kappa Alpha and other members of Greek groups have made substantial and important contributions to the school both as students and alumni, such as the donation by Pi Kappa Phi in 2007 of the beautiful ornamental clock that is a focal point of the new Alumni Plaza near the Creative and Performing Arts complex.

Sororities and fraternities have generated vitality and pizzazz on the campus for more than 80 years with a wide range of lively activities like the legendary Kappa Sigma luaus and Kappa Alpha Old South weekends.

Another genuine institution of student involvement at NSU is the Spirit of Northwestern marching band. One of the largest in the nation, the band, which dates back to 1911, dazzles audiences at football games, parades and other events and was cited last year as one of the top eight marching bands in the country.

Student organization, ca. 1910

New band members learn soon after arriving on campus to play the school's Alma Mater and Demon Fight Song, which are also cherished traditions at Northwestern. The melodies and lyrics of the Alma Mater and Fight Song have resounded across the campus from assemblies and athletic events for decades. Isabel Williamson wrote the words to the Alma Mater in 1906, and Larry Powell created the lyrics to the Demon Fight Song in 1970.

The Fight Song even survived continual assaults from long time Demon football coach Sam Goodwin, who loved to lead his teams in boisterous renditions of the song after important victories. Goodwin performed solos of the song at every opportunity and always got the words right even when he strayed a long way from the tune.

The marching band celebrates 100 years of Demon football, 2007

Band performances and other musical productions, plays, concerts, instrumental, vocal and dance recitals, art exhibits, Christmas Galas and other creative and performing arts programs showcase the talents of students and faculty and also provide cultural, social and entertainment experiences for the NSU community and the public.

Few cities in the nation the size of Natchitoches have a university-community orchestra, but the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra, made up of students and faculty at Northwestern and musicians from Natchitoches and nearby cities, has presented hundreds of performances through the years.

Debate teams at Northwestern have enjoyed unusual success, including a national championship in the 1990s. Gov. Edwin Edwards invited members of that team to lunch at the Governor's Mansion, where they dined on beef tenderloin, a rich crawfish sauce, stuffed potatoes and bread pudding with rum sauce. The governor explained that his new, much younger wife had him on a diet, so he had plain white rice, green peas, carrots and peaches.

The Distinguished Lecture Series at NSU has brought to the campus and community such dignitaries as Maya Angelou, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, John Dean, William F. Buckley Jr., Sen. George McGovern, Bill Russell, Ray Bradbury, John Wooden, Paul Harvey, Peter Jennings, Coretta Scott King, Scott Carpenter, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Robert Kennedy Jr., and numerous others.

A series of on-campus concerts has included such performers as Neil Diamond, Johnny Mathis, John Denver, Paul Anka, Ray Stevens, Kenny Rogers, Seals and Crofts, the Smothers Brothers, Pearl Bailey, Ray Charles, Ronnie Millsap and Lee Greenwood.

Smothers Brothers

Oprah Winfrey rides in NSU's 2002 Homecoming parade

Ronnie Millsap

Jim Croce

One performer who appeared in a campus concert at Prather Coliseum, singer-songwriter Jim Croce, was killed less than an hour after the performance when his plane clipped a treetop taking off from the Natchitoches airport and crashed onto a highway. Croce, the pilot and four band and crew members died in the September 1973 crash.

Numerous other celebrities have touched the school, including Oprah Winfrey. She rode in a Homecoming parade in a surprise visit to the school and community and later referred to Natchitoches on her television show as "the greatest little city in America."

Northwestern and Natchitoches were thrust into the national spotlight for a while in the late 1980s when the movie *Steel Magnolias* by NSU alumnus and Natchitoches native Bobby Harling was filmed on campus and in the community and brought in some big stars.

Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Olympia Dukakis and Daryl Hannah spent nearly three months here in 1988 making the movie, which was filmed in large part at sound stages on the Northwestern campus.

Dolly Parton agreed early on during her visit to sing at halftime of a Northwestern football game and helped pack Turpin Stadium with her performance with the NSU Band of the Grammy-winning song "9 to 5," which she wrote and recorded.

Dolly Parton, Bobby Harling, and Daryl Hannah participate in a *Steel Magnolias* press conference on the Northwestern campus, 1989

The film was a huge box office hit in 1989, and the cascade of publicity it generated created an explosion of tourism and economic development for Natchitoches. Local premiere showings of the movie produced substantial funding for NSU scholarships.

Steel Magnolias was by far the biggest movie ever filmed in Natchitoches, but not the first. John Wayne and William Holden starred in *Horse Soldiers*, shot along Cane River Lake in Natchitoches in the 1950s.

NSU students rushed out of their afternoon classes to watch the filming. They liked John Wayne, who stayed at a little motel in nearby Clarence and frequently chatted with them. Holden was not as popular with the Northwestern crowd, because he stayed at a fancy hotel in Shreveport, was chauffeured back and forth in a big limousine and had nothing to do with students and others visiting the filming site.

The Man in the Moon, which was Academy Award-winning actress Reese Witherspoon's first movie appearance, was filmed at Natchitoches and NSU in 1990. Witherspoon, who was 14 at the time, was in a number of scenes which were shot at the Fine Arts Auditorium.

Hundreds of nationally renowned sports dignitaries have also come to the Northwestern campus through the years because of the university's major role in establishing Natchitoches as the home for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was located on the NSU campus for more than 30 years beginning in the 1970s, and induction programs for the shrine brought to NSU such big-name athletes and coaches as Karl Malone, Joe Adcock, Vida Blue, Terry Bradshaw, Billy Cannon, Hank Aaron, John David Crow, Joe Dumars, Lee Arthur Smith, Y.A. Tittle, Jackie Smith, Bobby Hebert, Archie Manning, Jim Mora, Robert Parish, Bob Pettit and Eddie Robinson.

Meadowlark Lemon and his Harlem Globetrotters came to the school a couple of times in their heyday and provided a lights-out performance in Prather Coliseum one night at a fund-raising event sponsored by the Graduate N Club.

The packed-house audience was left in the dark late in the game when a thunderstorm knocked out power. The Globetrotters said the show must go on, so some university officials pulled their vehicles to the front door of the coliseum and shined their lights into the arena as the Globetrotters completed the game and the antics that attracted the capacity crowd.

Movie-making on campus, concert and lecture programs that have brought numerous stars and dignitaries to the school, and a Hall of Fame that has honored some the country's biggest names in

athletics are just examples of the varied resources, programs and facilities that enrich and enhance the university.

Among the vast and valuable resources of Watson Library at NSU is the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, which holds many rare and significant books and archival materials on Louisiana and the region surrounding Northwestern.

The Williamson Museum, established in the 1920s, is the official state and federal repository for archaeological collections from Northwest Louisiana, and the Creole Heritage Center helps promote, foster and preserve the area's Creole history and culture.

Scholarly works that expand the understanding of this region and its history are published by the NSU Press, and the Southern Studies Institute at the school encourages original research and publication of studies focusing on the South.

Also housed on the Northwestern campus are the Louisiana Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the Gulf South Regional Center for Public Safety Innovations. Those facilities allow NSU to expand both its public service and academic missions.

Northwestern sponsors a Folk Festival each year and maintains the Louisiana Folklife Center to identify, document, present and perpetuate folk arts, traditions, crafts, cultures, foods and customs of the region.

The university was also selected by NASA in the 1980s as one of the first six schools in the nation to participate in a project called Joint Venture that was designed to engage students and faculty in space science research. The program continues to provide research opportunities for NSU students in science and mathematics.

Deeply entrenched academic and athletic programs, continuing traditions, customs, rituals, partnerships with other agencies and institutions and sustained prominence and respect in higher education across the state and nation can be attributed, in part, to NSU's long history.

The school's historical importance was underscored years ago when the Normal Hill section of the campus was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That area, where the school originated, was later the site for Caldwell, Guardia, Warren Easton and Russell halls and is where the three Bullard columns still stand.

Northwestern's historical significance is also reflected in the fact that the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training is located at NSU in the former Women's Gymnasium. That facility focuses on the preservation and restoration of historic structures nationwide.

Expanding recognition of Natchitoches' prominent position in the history of the region and nation accentuates NSU's treasured heritage. Because of the emphasis in Natchitoches and at the university on historic preservation, the city has received national designation as a Preserve America Community and has been cited by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the nation's Dozen Distinctive Destinations.

Kiplinger's magazine has listed Natchitoches as one of the top six places in the nation to retire, largely because of its college town atmosphere and the cultural, educational, social, entertainment and recreational opportunities provided by Northwestern.

Reaching such a memorable milestone as its 125th anniversary is verification not just of Northwestern's important history but also of the school's resilience and perseverance in overcoming adversity and hardship.

The university has survived world wars, the Great Depression, terrorist attacks on the nation, epidemics of measles and typhoid fever, political upheaval, bomb threats, student protests, fires, storms and other natural disasters and a rollercoaster Louisiana economy that often created fiscal feast or famine for the school.

Northwestern has maintained its stability through the ordeal of financial exigency and the proliferation of colleges and extensive duplication of higher education programs across the state that took a toll at times on enrollment and funding.

The school has remained sturdy and steadfast under Republican and Democratic governors, liberal and conservative legislatures and under the leadership of its diverse presidents who came from the sciences, liberal arts, education, agriculture, government and other academic disciplines.

Fires that destroyed some major buildings have created serious setbacks for the school throughout its history, but those disasters seemed to always bring Northwestern folks closer together as they came up with creative ways to cope with the loss of structures and the resources and materials that they housed.

Caldwell Hall destroyed by fire, 1982

One of the greatest losses in a fire was Caldwell Hall in 1982. That stately structure on the hill at the main entrance to the campus was a landmark for decades and the major classroom and administration building for generations of students.

Tons of academic records stored in the immense basement of Caldwell were destroyed, which prompted a couple of graduates who had gotten out of school by the skin of their teeth years earlier to call the Alumni Center both to express regrets about the loss of the building and to inquire about the records.

The callers said they had long been concerned about their less-than-impressive transcripts somehow falling into the hands of their children and grandchildren and hoped that the documents had gone up in flames. They were assured that the university had extensive and foolproof backup systems for the records.

Guardia Hall, another huge classroom and laboratory facility, burned in 1967. Caldwell, Guardia, Warren Easton and Russell formed the old quadrangle on Normal Hill that was the center of the campus.

Russell Hall, the university's library for years, was renovated in the 1990s and now houses the College of Business. Warren Easton, which still stands in the shadows of the school's symbolic three columns, is the university's elementary laboratory school.

Another fire in the early 1980s destroyed Bullard Hall, the former center for student religious organizations that housed academic programs in special education, physical plant offices, the news bureau and other offices when it burned.

The old Bienville Dining Hall burned in the 1970s, but it had been vacated and replaced by a new dining facility several years earlier. In 1997, fire gutted the women's gymnasium. It was salvaged and rebuilt as the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

Those fires and others have been just a small part of the ever-changing landscape and panorama of the Northwestern campus, where scores of buildings have come and gone since the school started in those little convent structures.

Buildings like Agnes Morris Hall, Kate Chopin, Carondelet, Audubon, Sheib Hall—better known as the Brick Shack—Rebel Hall, East Caspari, West Caspari, the old Student Center and others that served thousands of students over the years have been shut down or demolished.

Huge dormitories like Rapides, Sabine and even magnificent old Varnado Hall served an important purpose in their time but have been replaced in recent years by new on-campus, apartment-style residential facilities.

Some historic structures have been preserved and renovated to become beautiful and functional facilities. Morrison Hall, the former College of Business building, was refurbished to house the Louisiana Scholars' College, and the Home Economics Building was completely renovated for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The Men's Gym that was the site of so many basketball games and gymnastics events has been rebuilt and expanded as the magnificent new Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center. Williamson Hall has been renovated to house engineering technology programs.

That is certainly not a complete list of buildings that have been and continue to be a part of the college experience for so many thousands of students. But images of those structures and others flashing across the screen of the school's history provide some perspective on how much NSU has changed over 125 years.

Dormitories, classrooms, gymnasiums and other buildings where students spent time are still vivid in the memories of alumni, but the lives of those who have attended Northwestern through the years have been touched most dramatically, permanently and profoundly by teachers, coaches, administrators and others who have been the heart and soul of the school.

Some seemed larger than life to their students. Doc Marx was a colorful character who bounced chalk and erasers off the heads of dozing students, danced on his desk and wore medieval costumes that he borrowed from the Theatre Department to his fencing classes.

Doc was seen at times climbing through classroom windows. He would tell students to expect a pop quiz the next time he walked through the door and, if he didn't have the tests ready, would climb in the window.

A science professor began his classes each semester by calling a big football player to the front for a demonstration. He would then deliver an unexpected forearm blow to the chest of the player, sending him reeling across the room.

The professor said he was illustrating a principle of physics about a moving force meeting a stationary object or some such thing. Some students might have forgotten that principle, but the football players remembered it.

Buddy Bonnette, who wore white socks and house slippers to classes and other events long before informal attire for teachers and students became popular, probably saved a lot of lives with his demanding water safety classes.

Students who earned certification in his classes as lifeguards and swimming instructors became proficient in those areas but wondered if they would survive the rigorous hours of training in the natatorium. Some of them are still shriveled from those long sessions of treading water.

The 17 men who have served as president of the institution also left indelible marks on NSU's history. Each faced a different assortment of problems and challenges, and the school obviously experienced varied levels of progress during their tenures. But all of them played a meaningful role in molding the university into its present form.

Dr. Edward Sheib, the first president, was a noted educator from out of state who demonstrated unusual courage in taking on the task of attempting to create a teacher-training school in the remote woods of North Louisiana.

But he and his successor, Col. Thomas Boyd, managed to lay the foundation for a successful Normal School and a future university during the school's first dozen years. Boyd left Normal to become president of LSU even though Normal's enrollment was larger and the salaries of the positions were about the same.

One of Boyd's faculty members, Beverly C. Caldwell, became president and managed to secure funding for some major buildings during his 12-year tenure. One of those structures was Caldwell Hall, built in 1908 for about $120,000.

When Caldwell was asked to resign because he had not voted for the new governor, State Superintendent of Education James B. Aswell was appointed president. It was Aswell who declared one of the first unscheduled holidays at the school to reward students who had been forced to endure long political speeches during Normal's 25th anniversary celebration.

Victor L. Roy had the longest term in office of any president, serving from 1911 to 1929. He assumed the job under a cloud of controversy because he had served on the interracial faculty at Southern University in New Orleans. Roy was also the president who approved the sale of Coca-Cola on campus after banning the product from the school for more than a decade because of safety concerns.

William W. Tison succeeded Roy and managed to hold the school together from 1929 to 1934, when the Great Depression all but dried up funding for programs and facilities.

A.A. Fredericks, a friend of Gov. Huey Long who served simultaneously as a state senator and president of Normal, brought happy days to the Natchitoches school again from 1934 to 1941 when he used his political clout to obtain funding to build or renovate 39 buildings on campus.

But then World War II interrupted the momentum and growth of the school, which had three presidents over the next nine years. Joe Farrar, Joseph E. Gibson and G.W. McGinty headed Northwestern from 1941 to 1950, when H. Lee Prather, who had been a popular and highly successful basketball coach for 36 years, was appointed to serve as president until his retirement in 1954.

Dr. John Kyser, who had been on the faculty for three decades, served as president for the next 12 years and directed substantial physical expansion that included new dormitories, a dining hall, Prather Coliseum, Roy Hall and nursing facilities in Shreveport.

Enrollment and academic growth and campus improvements continued under Dr. Arnold Kilpatrick. Graduate programs were expanded, the Fort Polk campus was established, and major facilities such as the Teacher Education Center, Watson Library, Health and Human Performance Building, President's Home and Student Recreation Complex were built.

Dr. René Bienvenu, who had been a highly respected dean and department head at NSU for years, stressed academic excellence during his tenure as president from 1978 to 1982 and created one of the state's outstanding creative and performing arts programs.

Dr. Joseph Orze, a former president of Worcester State College in Massachusetts, headed Northwestern for the next four years. His tenure was highlighted by the school's Centennial celebration, which included concerts, lectures, social activities and other events. The strap on his wife's evening gown broke as she was signing the guest book for a Centennial gala, and quick reflexes prevented the incident from adding impromptu excitement to the festivities.

State budget reductions and other factors created enrollment declines, inadequate funding and other problems that faced Dr. Robert Alost when he became president in 1986. A declaration of financial exigency allowed him to restructure the school, increase enrollment and launch other improvements, including the creation of the Louisiana Scholars' College.

During Dr. Randall Webb's presidency since 1996, NSU had record enrollments before starting selective admission and has become the first university in the state to achieve 100 percent accreditation of all academic programs. The school has developed the largest distance-learning program in Louisiana and completed a fund-raising campaign that exceeded its goal of $18.84 million by some $14 million.

Today's students, faculty members and others at the school walk in the footprints of giants in Northwestern's history like many of those presidents and hundreds of other great, dedicated teachers, administrators and coaches who had such a positive and permanent impact on the lives of the young people they taught and guided.

Their names are emblazoned across the annals and archives of the school's 125 years, names like Catherine Winters, Doc Marx, Hal Townsend, Harry Turpin, Alfred Ducournau, Guy Nesom, Eugene Christmas, Sylvan Nelken, Joe Webb, Lucile Hendrick, Eve Mouton, Ora Williams, Jack Clayton, Leo Allbritten, Red Thomas, Noble Morrison, Cracker Brown, Dudley Fulton, Waldo Dunnington, Walter Ledet, Virginia Crossno, John Jones, Clarence Dugdale, Sarah Clapp, John Merrill, Joe Johnson, Leroy Miller, Otis Crew, Loneta Graves, Robert Wilson, Mamie Tarlton, Eugene Watson, Pete Gregory, Marietta LeBreton, Hilda Burnham, Tynes Hildebrand, Arlene Airhart, John Robson, Buddy Bonnette, Leroi Eversull, Robert Easley, Slim Howell, David Townsend, Ray Baumgardner, Roger Best, Marie Dunn, Lisso Simmons, Caesar Moody, Ralph Fell, Roderick Outland, Mildred Bailey, Tommy Dunagan, Orville Hanchey, Grady Irwin, Ruby Duncklеman, Walter Robinson, Joe Carlucci, William F. Beyer, Tom Southerland, Red Hennigan, Fred Martinez, Kenneth Durr, Don Hatley, Austin Temple, Pat Pierson, Elise James, Tom Whitehead, John Williams, James Smith, Bill Brent, Tandy McElwee, Maxine Southerland, Gene Knecht, Johnnie Emmons, Raymond McCoy, George Ware, Ralph Combs, Wayne Hyde, Bill Timon, Stan Chadick, C.G. Killen, Russell Whittington and so many more.

Every student who ever attended Northwestern would offer a different list of teachers, coaches and others who provided influence and encouragement and helped shape the future for their students. Today's students will someday cite many current faculty and staff members as their role models.

So the lives of all of the professors, mentors, coaches, counselors and advisers who have taught, guided and supported NSU students are firmly and forever interlaced into the fabric and fiber of this old school.

But Northwestern's durability over 125 years and its enduring reputation as a strong, highly esteemed university must be attributed more to the success and achievements of its thousands of alumni than to any other factor.

The university has honored some of those outstanding former students since 1990 with induction into its Hall of Distinction, or Long Purple Line. The noteworthy achievements of those alumni reflect the success and accomplishments of countless others across the nation and world who prepared for lives and careers at NSU.

Among members of the Long Purple Line are physicians, school principals, philanthropists and college presidents. There are nurses, NASA officials, attorneys, judges, journalists and business leaders. Coaches, professors, political consultants and playwrights have been honored along with military generals and admirals, hospital administrators, legislators and others who represent the legions of former Northwestern students who have excelled in every area of endeavor in our society.

A walk through the Student Union corridors where Long Purple Line portraits are displayed stirs recollections of the success and personal and professional feats of each individual who has been honored and of the group as a whole.

Just a few fragments about a handful of those alumni illustrate the prominence of the Hall of Distinction and the impact of the honorees on the university and society.

Some have given the school political influence. Bill Dodd was lieutenant governor, state auditor and state superintendent of education, and Mary Evelyn Parker served as state treasurer. Speedy Long was in Congress for four terms after serving eight years in the State Senate.

Don Kelly was a floor leader for three governors in his two decades in the Senate and helped obtain millions of dollars for Northwestern programs and facilities. Joe Salter became one of the most powerful members of the legislature as House Speaker. Jimmy Long was officially recognized during his 32 years in the House as Dean of the Legislature. For many of those years, he was chair of the House Education Committee.

Long, who was later appointed to the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System, which governs Northwestern and seven other schools, was the driving force in the establishment of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and of the Louisiana Scholars' College at NSU.

Gen. Erbon Wise served as Louisiana's Adjutant General and was also head of the state's Selective Service System, Civil Defense and Office of Emergency Preparedness.

It was Wise who scratched out in longhand a personal check to create the first $1 million faculty chair in Northwestern's history to provide momentum for the school's initial capital campaign. Soon after that chair in journalism was established, Mrs. Melba Law Steeg obtained funding for a chair in education, and the family of the late Charles Ragus funded a chair in his honor in business.

Long Purple Line member Marjorie Dial generated statewide attention for her alma mater when she won the Miss Louisiana title in 1933 and competed in the Miss America Pageant. She was active for years in the NSU Alumni Association.

Other honorees had important involvement at the federal level, including Adm. Ronald Hays, Gen. A.J. LaBoa and other top military personnel with NSU backgrounds. Hays was commander of the Pacific Command, and LaBoa was deputy director of operations in the office of the Army chief of staff at the Pentagon. Larry Rivers had nationwide influence as adjutant general of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Rebecca Doherty became the first woman to serve as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana, and Ellis Coutee was for some 30 years a senior agent in the U.S. Treasury Department. Carolyn Leach Huntoon and Robert Eugene Easley held major posts for years in NASA.

Nursing graduates and Long Purple Line members Patricia Thompson and Mavis Pate gained national recognition during their careers. Dr. Thompson had major influence in nationwide nursing practice, education and policy as president of the 260,000-member Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and Ms. Pate was the operating room supervisor for the SS Hope's maiden voyage to Southeast Asia.

Raymond Strother and Val Marmillion became nationally acclaimed political strategists who have been involved in campaigns for president, Congress and numerous other elected offices, and Ted Jones is recognized as one of the most effective lobbyists and political consultants in the nation.

Strother was asked to leave Northwestern because of deep political differences with the president back when the heads of colleges could do such things without legal consequences. He went to LSU to finish school but still has deep affection for NSU and has held the university's faculty chair in journalism.

Some Long Purple Line members have headed colleges and universities, including former Auburn, Akron and East Carolina University president William Muse; Robert Charles Brown, who has been president of Arkansas Tech University; Bossier Parish Community College chancellor Tom Carleton, and former Northwestern presidents Robert Alost, Arnold Kilpatrick and H. Lee Prather.

Muse publicly expressed his respect for his alma mater when he wrote in a recently published autobiography, "I can't imagine that I could have had a better undergraduate experience than I had at Northwestern. I grew intellectually and socially and had many opportunities to develop my leadership skills."

Numerous business leaders have been honored with Long Purple Line membership. One is Joseph Dow, whose kinfolks in America talked him into coming to Northwestern from Syria. He owns one of the world's largest pipe and fence companies.

Dow likes to tell about being called to the dean's office after he had been in school for a while and told that he had to sign up for a foreign language. He said in his heavy accent, "Dean, I'm taking English, and that's a foreign language to me."

Dan Chase developed plastic models for the taxidermy industry and built one of the nation's most successful taxidermy supply companies. David Morgan established an insurance company that had more than $100 million in assets in just over a decade. Ted Roberts was president of one of the country's biggest financial institutions.

Grover Davis rose through the ranks to become chairman and chief executive officer of Crawford & Company, an enterprise with more than 10,000 employees. Lela Mae Lea Wilkes has been president of the Brown Eagle Group chemical company, which employs over 500 people. Karl Moore worked his way up to a vice presidency position at International Paper, one of the world's largest companies.

Barbara Jo Pease has served as chief national ethics and compliance officer for Shell Oil Company, Kevin Lynch was a national sales manager for Procter and Gamble, and Robert Kelley was a partner in the national accounting firm of Arthur Andersen Company.

A number of Long Purple Line honorees and other alumni have joined Gen. Wise, Mrs. Steeg and the Ragus family in becoming major financial supporters of their alma mater by donating or obtaining more than $100,000 each to establish professorships or fully endowed scholarships and with other contributions.

Besides providing financial, political and other support for the school, NSU alumni continue to bring positive recognition to the university and enhance the reputation and prestige of the institution through their extraordinary accomplishments.

In a sense, every individual who ever enrolled at Normal or Northwestern is part of a long, perpetual Purple Line of alumni who have carried the school's banner to every part of the nation and world for 125 years now.

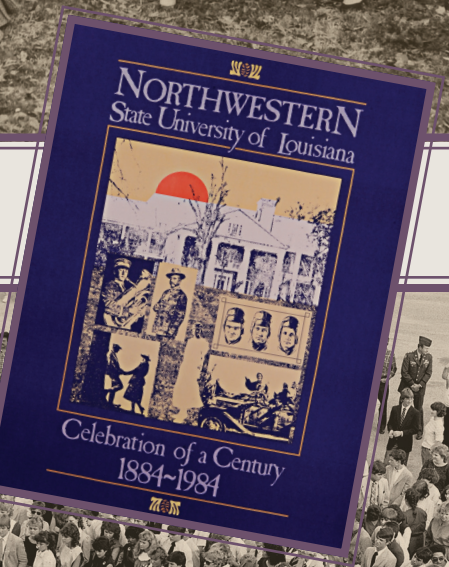
They are members of a huge family of more than 75,000 former students who have been drawn together in kinship by their mutual affiliation with Northwestern and who discovered that this unique school is more than a place just to work, study, learn and share information.

It is an environment in which people are challenged and encouraged in classrooms, libraries, computer and research labs, on athletic fields, in concert halls, on theater stages, in art and dance studios, in student organizations and in many other ways to explore the world, expand their horizons and fulfill their dreams.

The sounds of the voices, laughter and footsteps of all those alumni who lived, loved, learned, danced, sang, worked and played at the Normal School, Normal College and Northwestern still echo through the corridors, arenas, auditoriums, hills and hollows of the campus and will resonate through the ages as the very breath and heartbeat of this beloved old school.

Every individual that has ever been touched by Northwestern in its 125 years has helped create the special aura and spirit of a school rich in history, traditions and achievements but still striving for greater progress and innovation that will make its next 125 years even more memorable and momentous.

Capt. Leopold Caspari



The 50th, 75th and 100th celebrations of Northwestern were commemorated with programs and receptions for the school and community. In 1984, the university commemorated the event with year-long activities in the "Celebration of a Century" that included a Centennial Extravaganza and the unveiling of a Centennial plaque.

Students welcomed, 1985 and 1910.

NU 125

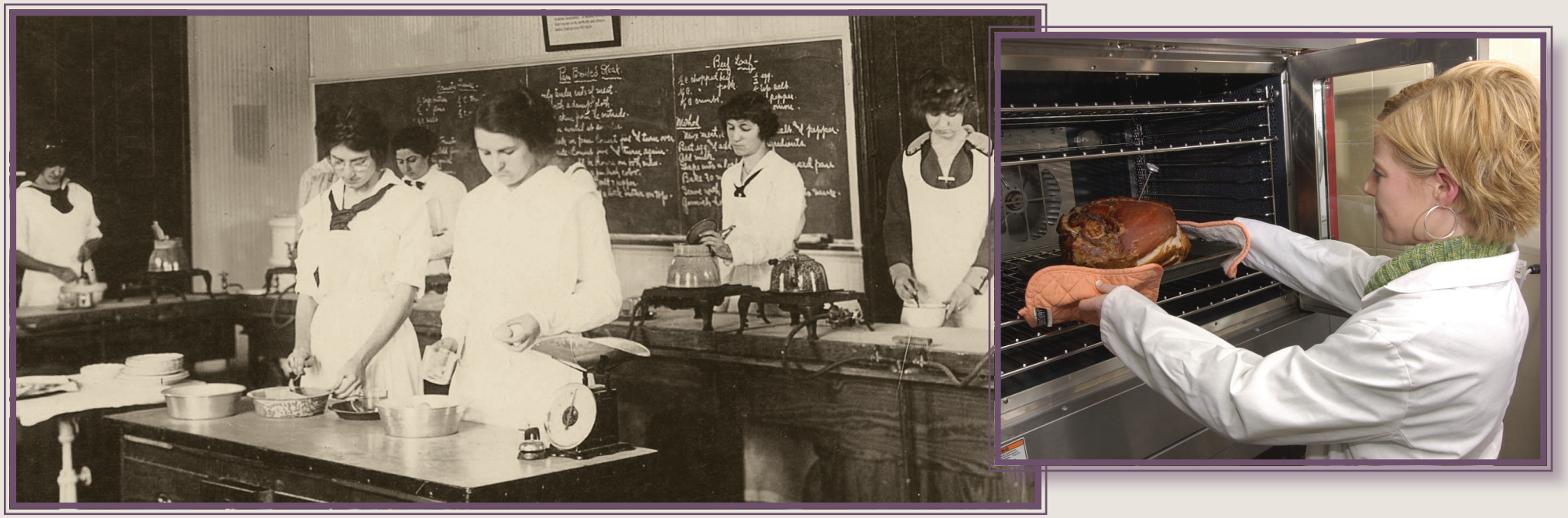
Academics

Though the university's name, status and services have changed over the decades, the excellent, diverse and highly respected academic programs that have been the very bedrock of the school since its inception are still strong and innovative and have been continually expanded and enhanced.

Hospitality Management and Tourism students, ca. 2000

Culinary Arts program prepares students for careers in the food and restaurant industry, ca. 2005

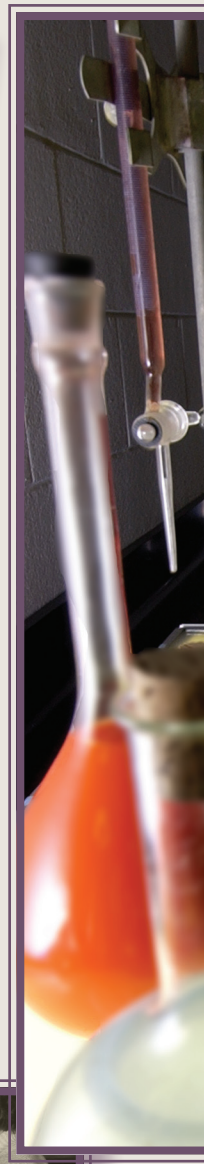
Students learn home management skills, ca. 1900

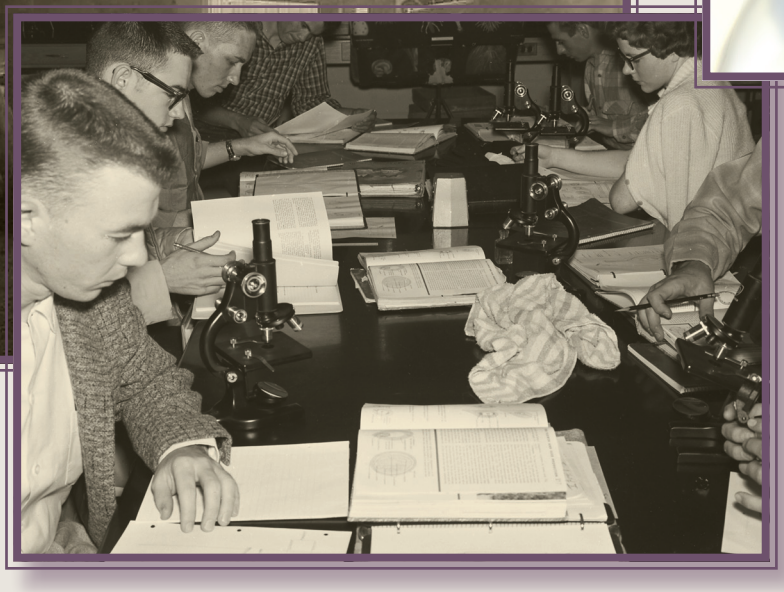


Culinary Arts students practice their skills, ca. 1930 and 2002

Fashion Design students, 2002

Students utilize new Culinary Arts commercial kitchen, 2008





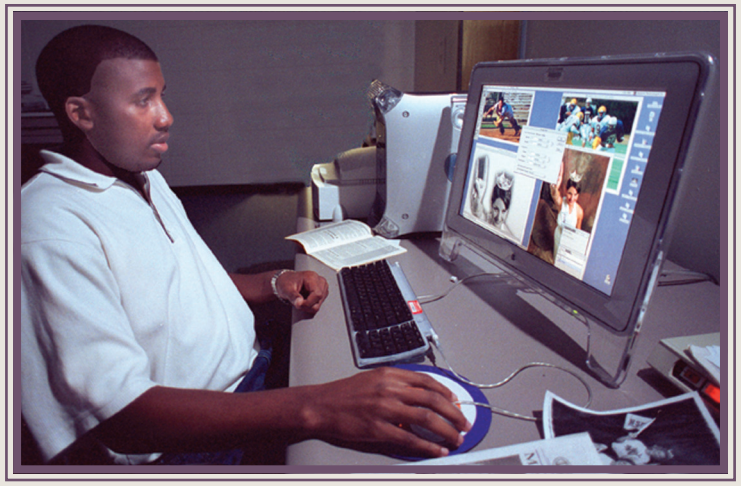
Science Labs Over the Years

N125

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

Agricultural Sciences Program

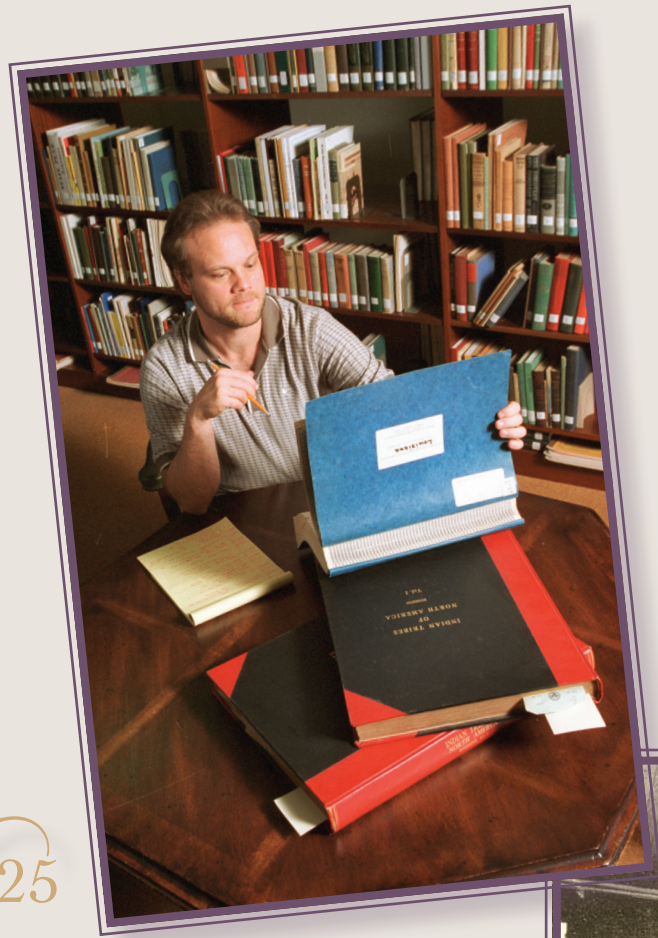
Television programing since the 1960s

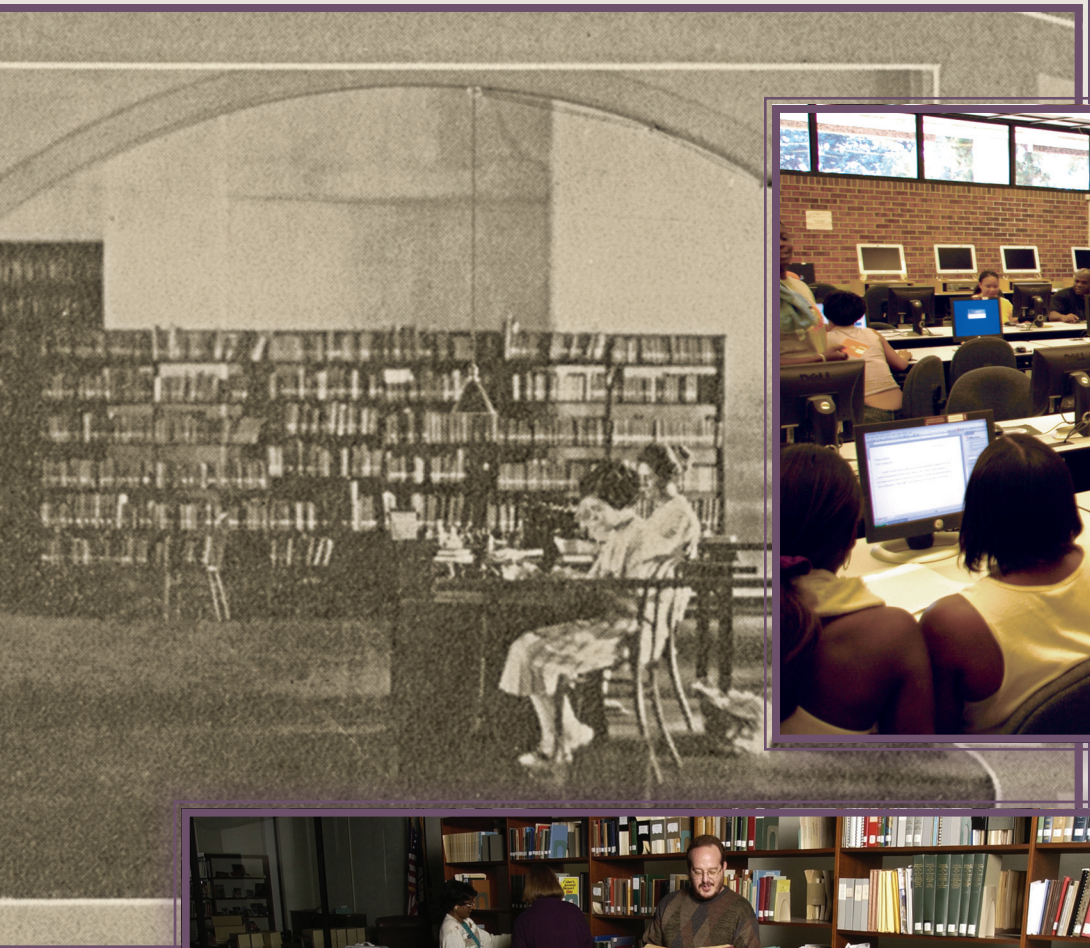


Student media – *Potpourri*, *Current Sauce*, *Argus* and KNWD – offer students practical training in news writing, editing, public relations and broadcasting

N125

Northwestern's Library Facilities Since 1884





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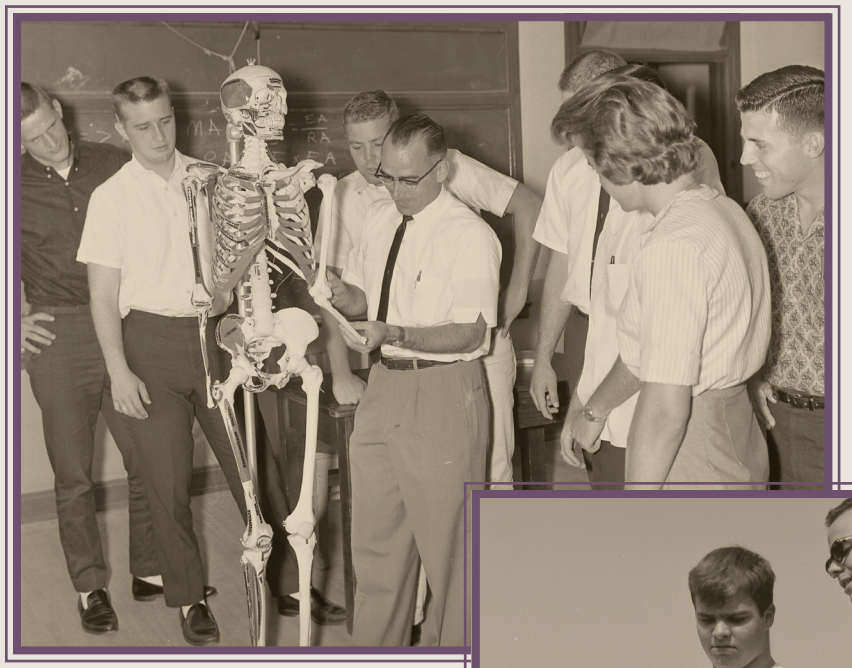
125

Aviation Science Programs

N125

Field Experiences in Teacher Education

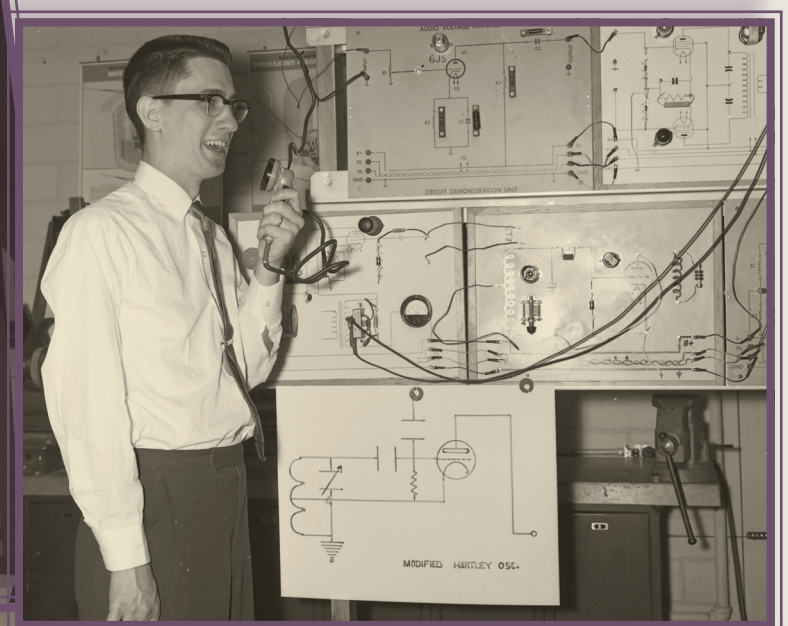


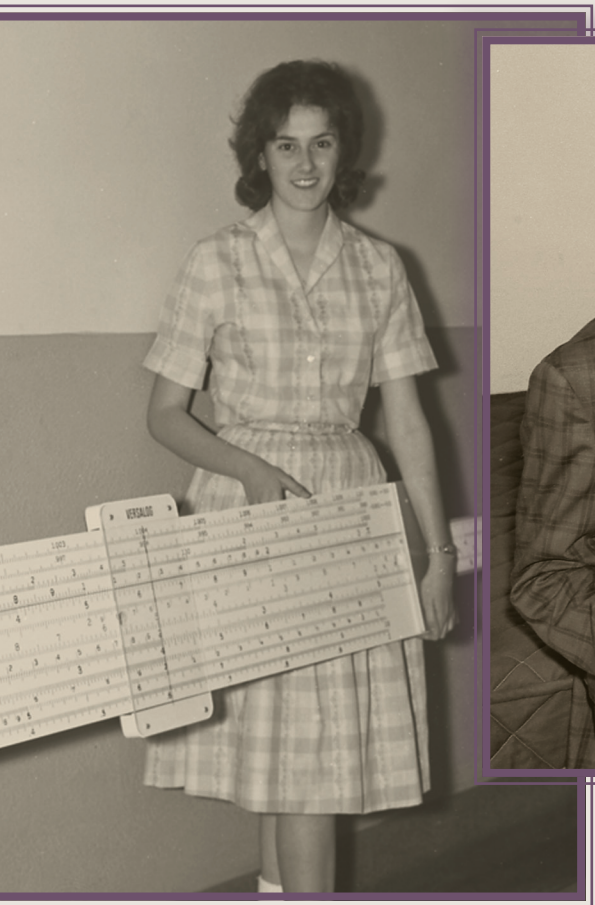
Health and Human Performance Programs

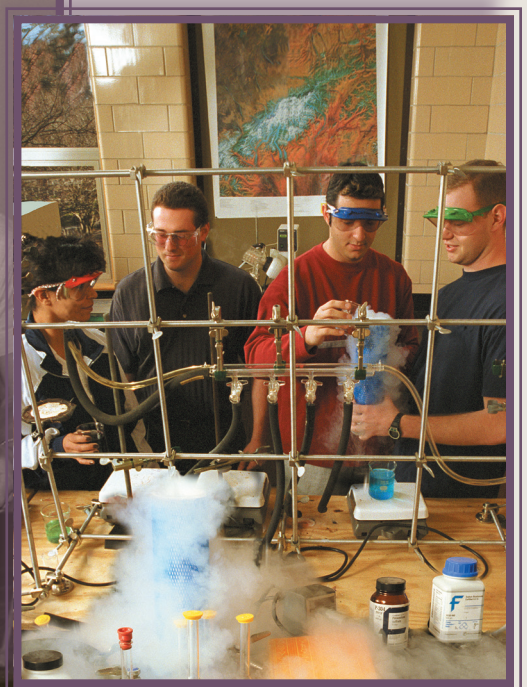
N125

Classroom and Research Experiences

N125

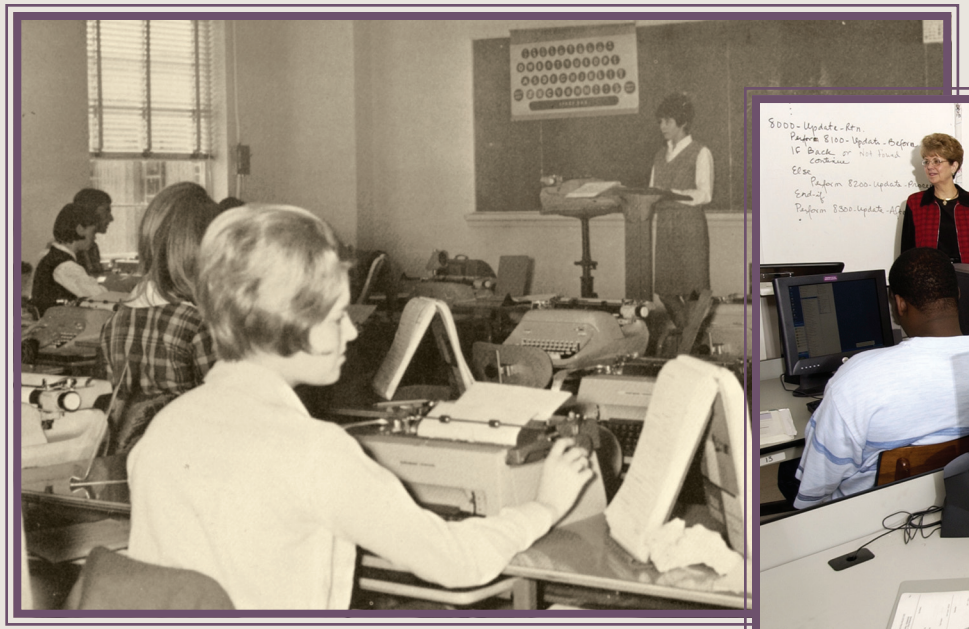






Science and Technology Programs

N125

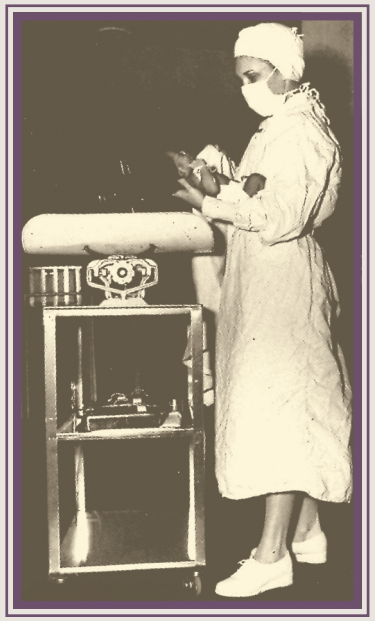


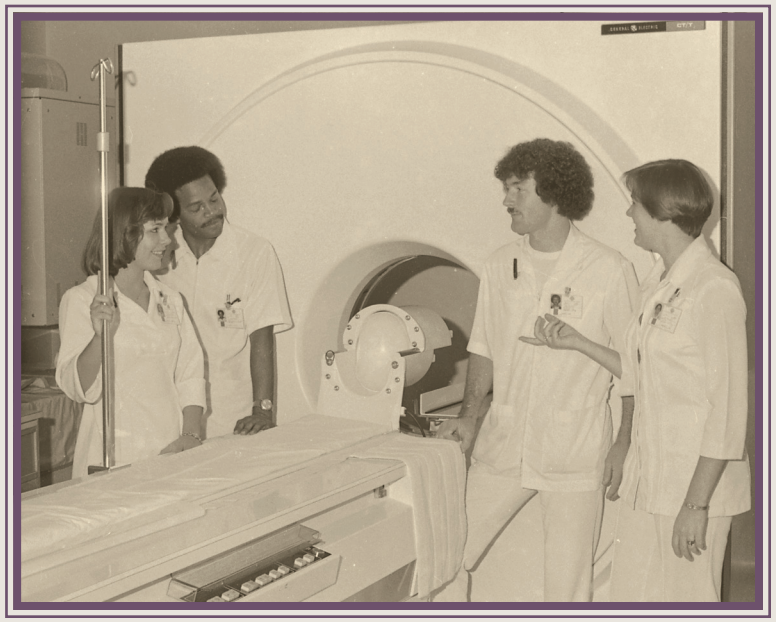
CELEBRATE SUMMER
IN THE FAST LANE!
CELEBRATE SUMMER
IN THE FAST LANE!

DEAN-BUSINESS
CANDIDATES

Computer Information Systems, Accounting and Business Administration Programs

N125



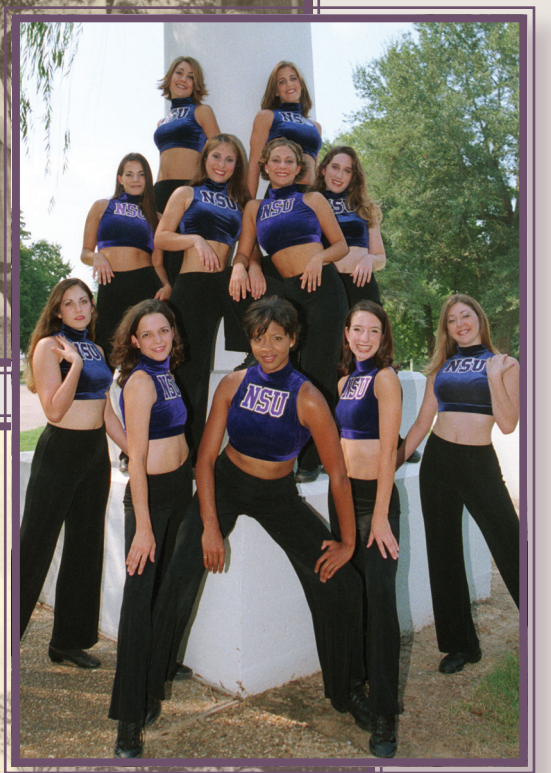


Nursing Education Programs

N125

N125

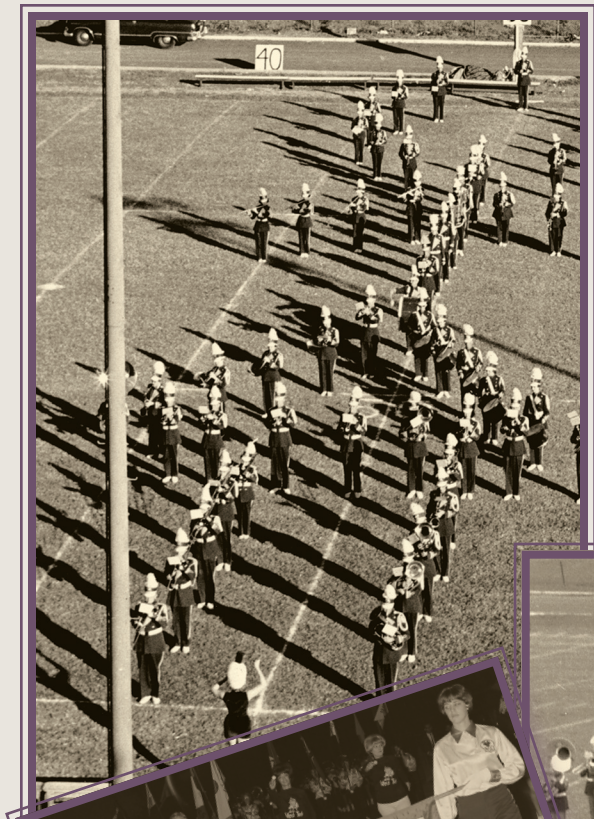
Creative and Performing Arts Programs



JiST
Married

Musical Performance Groups

N125



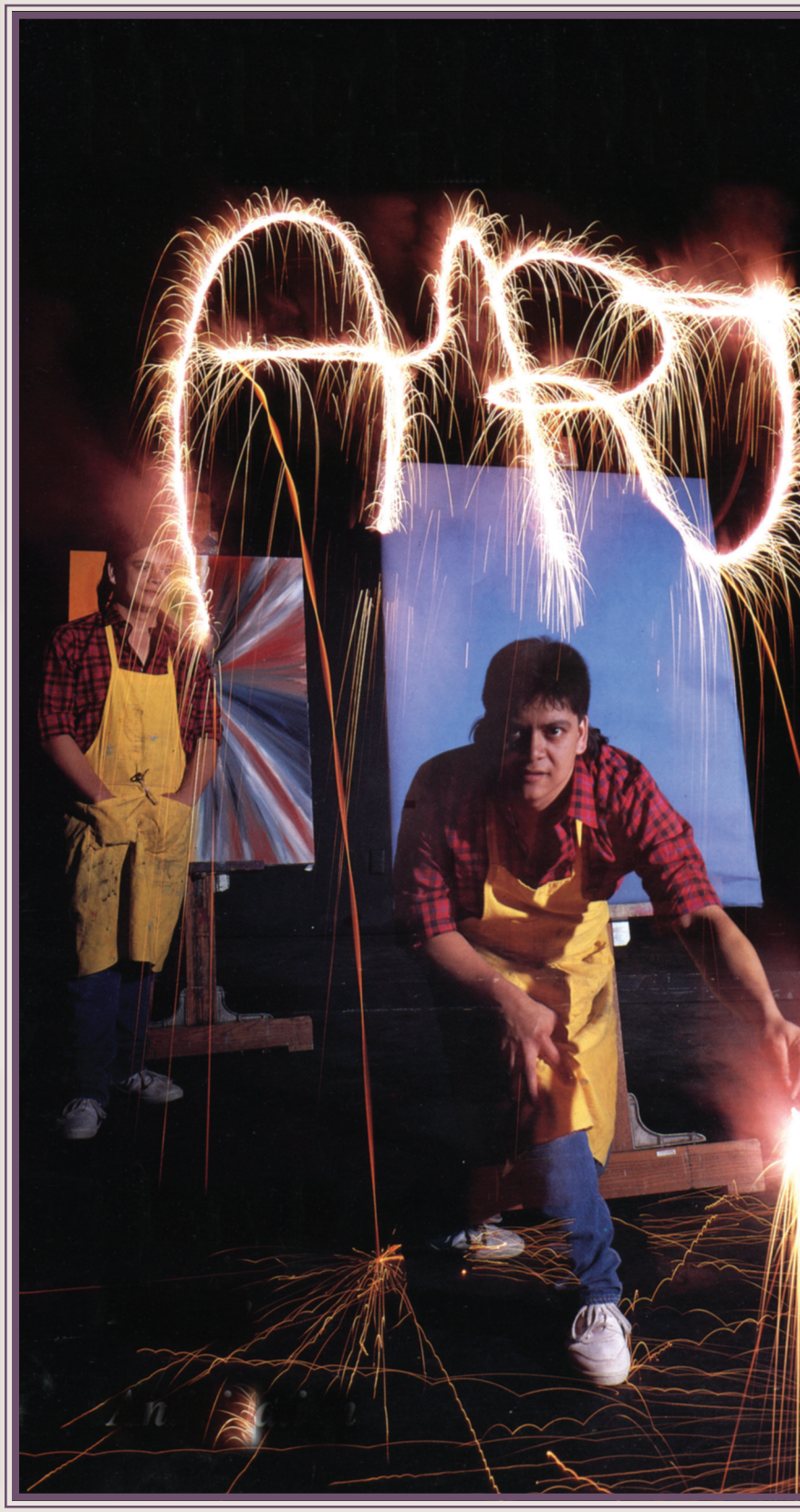
Marching Band and Auxiliary Groups

N125

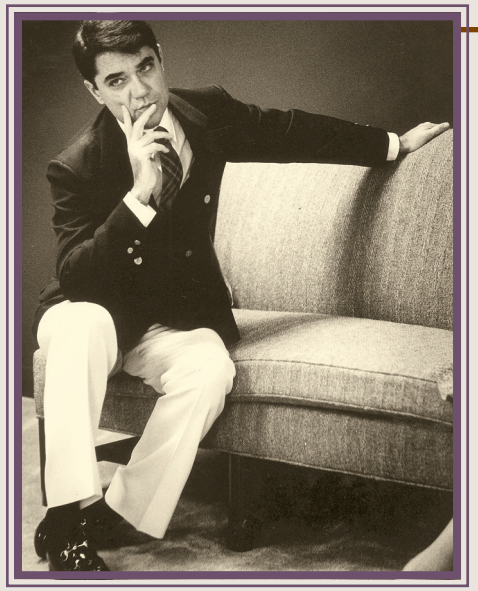
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
BAND
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA
POLICE

YAMAHA



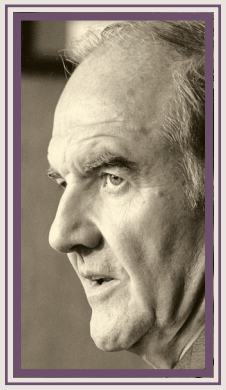
Visual Arts Programs



Rex Reed

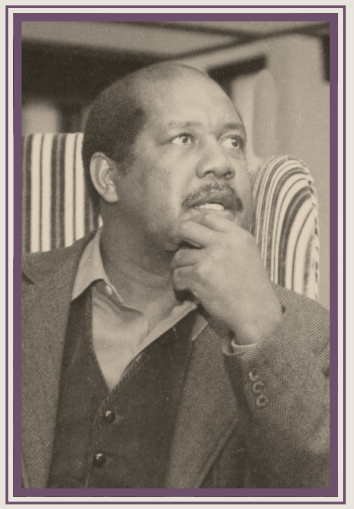
Hugh Downs

Paul Harvey



George McGovern

J. Bennett Johnston



Ernest J. Gaines

John Updike

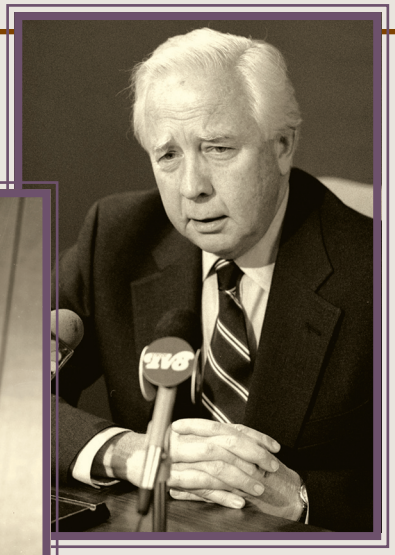
Helen Thomas

Gloria Steinem

Northwestern's Distinguished Lecture Series drew to Natchitoches some of the most esteemed and at times controversial figures in the circles of art, literature, news, politics, science, music and humor.

N125

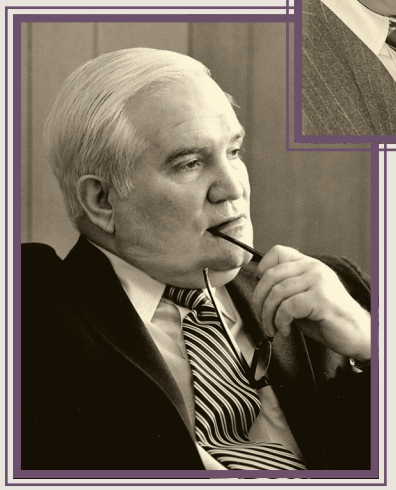
William F. Buckley Jr.



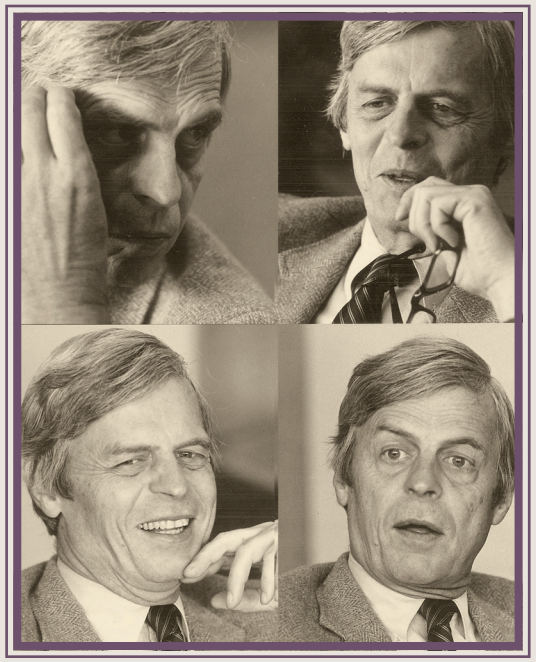
David McCullough

Robert Kennedy Jr.

F. Lee Bailey

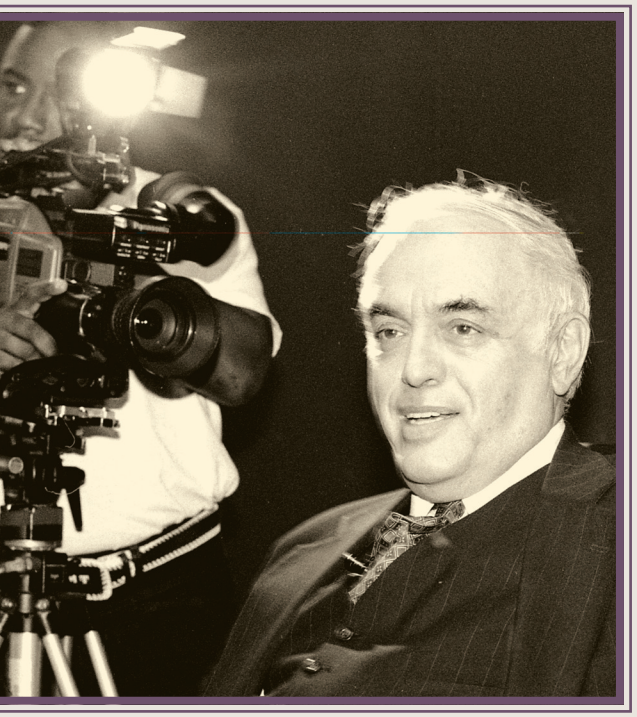


Bill Leonard



George Plimpton

Coretta Scott King

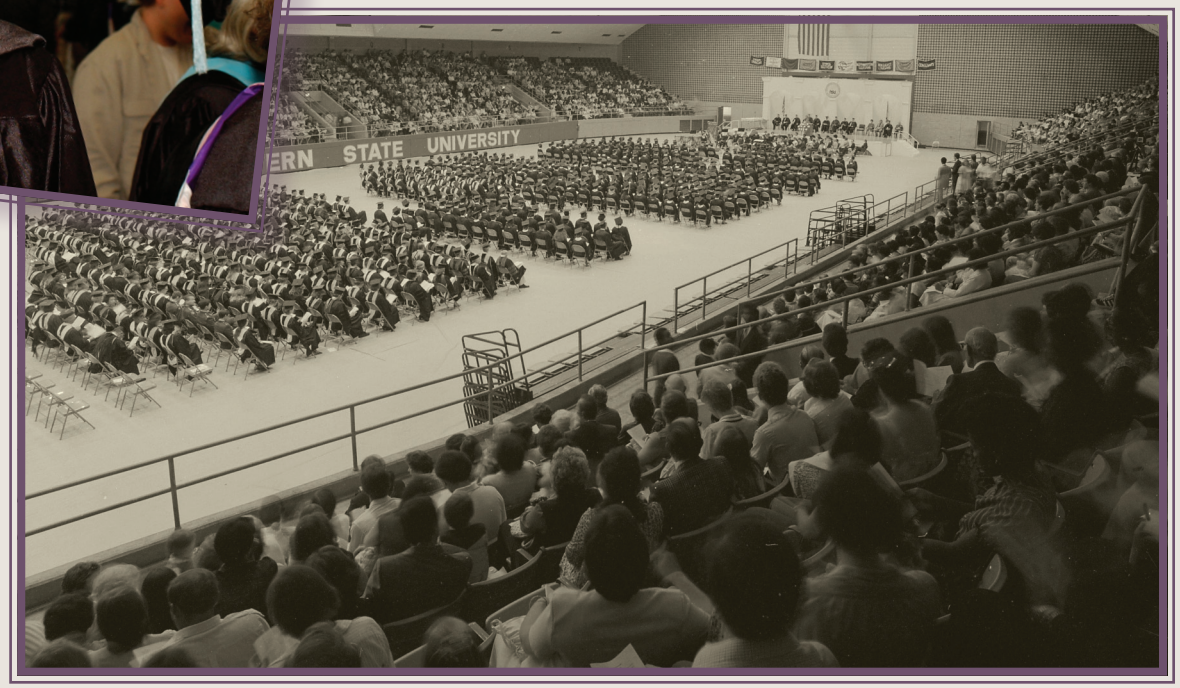


Robert Novak

John Wooden

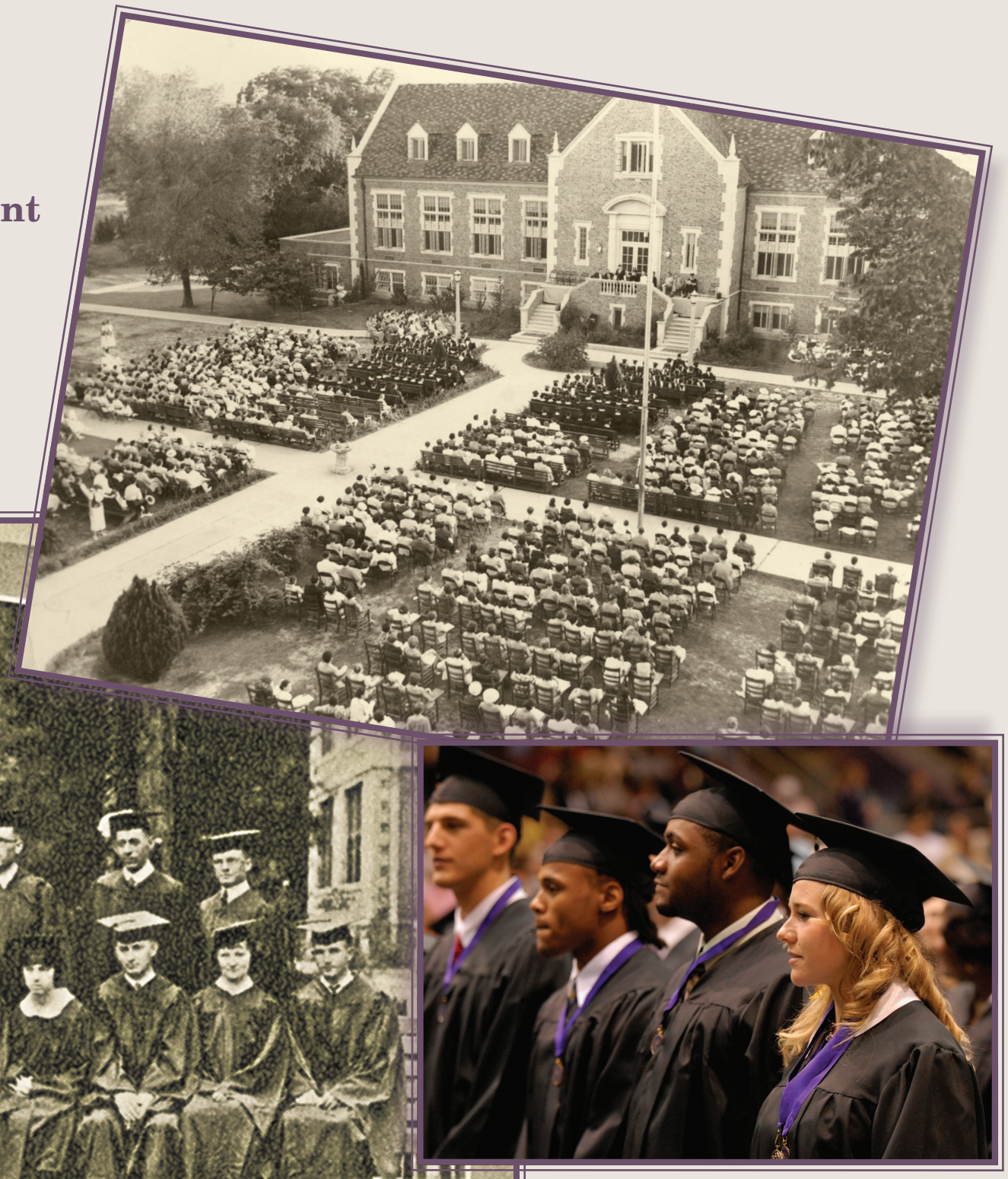
Pearl Bailey

Ethlene Lebo
Ellen Powell
Ursa Adams
Peyton Cunningham


ERN STATE UNIVERSITY

N125

Commencement Ceremonies



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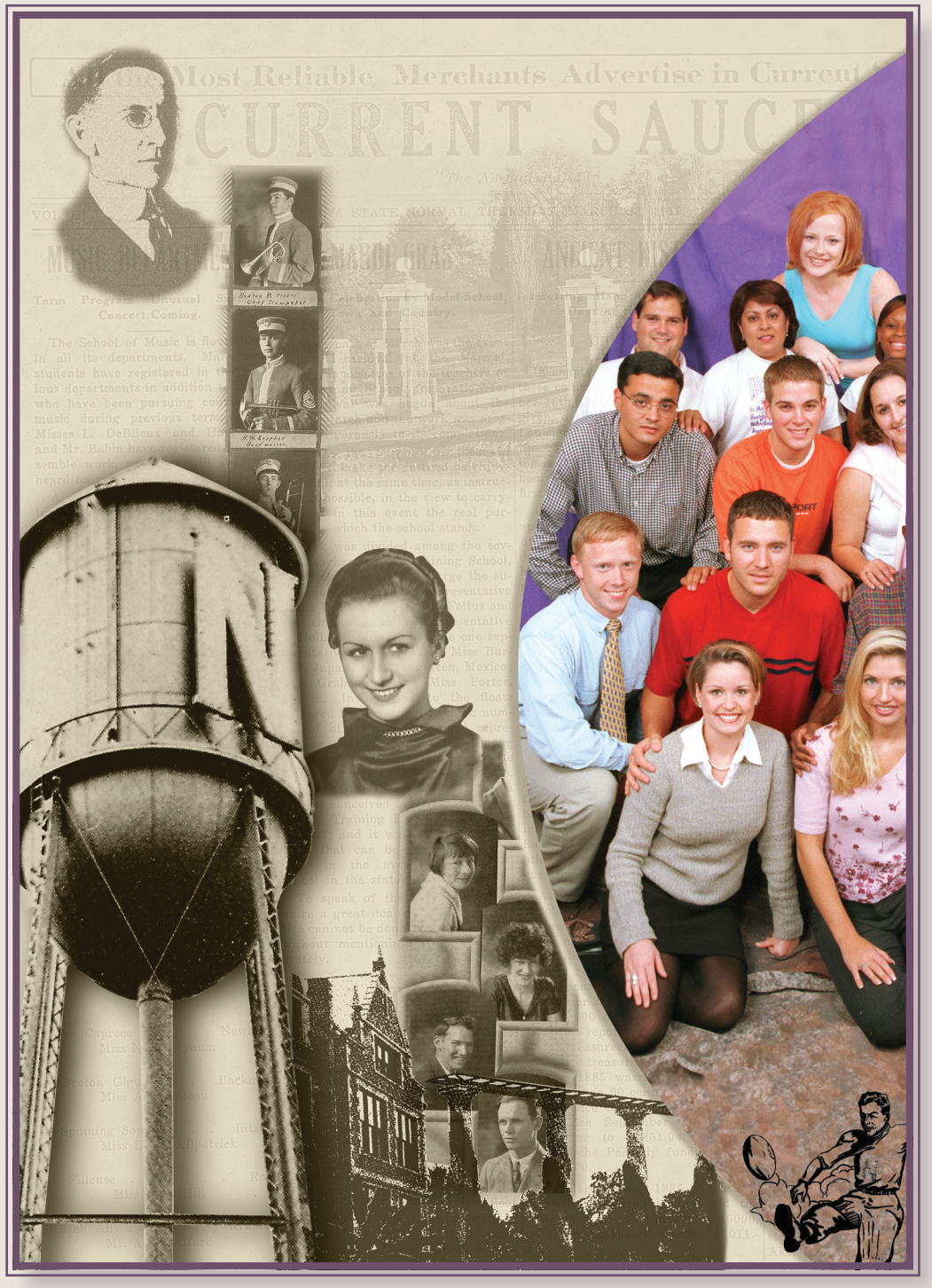

Most Reliable Merchants Advertise in Current
CURRENT SAUCE
Concert Coming.

NU 125

Student Life

Prominent in the anniversary portrait of Northwestern are the thousands of young people who came to the Natchitoches campus over the decades as traditional students pursuing the dream of a college education and all of the new experiences that college life offered and the opportunities that their education promised.

Student Activities Board, 1970

Mardi Gras Court, ca. 1970

Student group,
ca. 1908

Association of Women Students, 1970

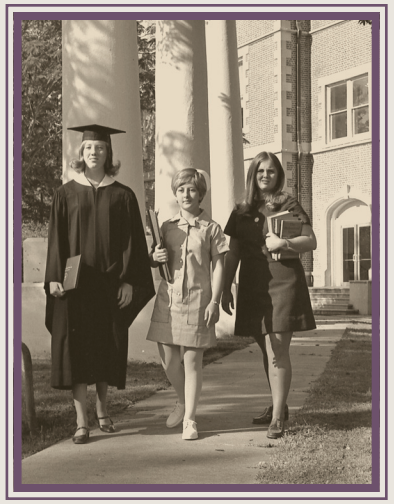
Refreshments and
a relaxing moment,
1963

Honor society members, 1924

Intramural team, 1964

The Entertainers, ca. 1971

Northwestern dancers, 1970



Nursing brochure photo, ca. 1970

Secretary Association, 1970

Louisiana Scholars' College students, 2000

Purple Jackets, ca. 1935

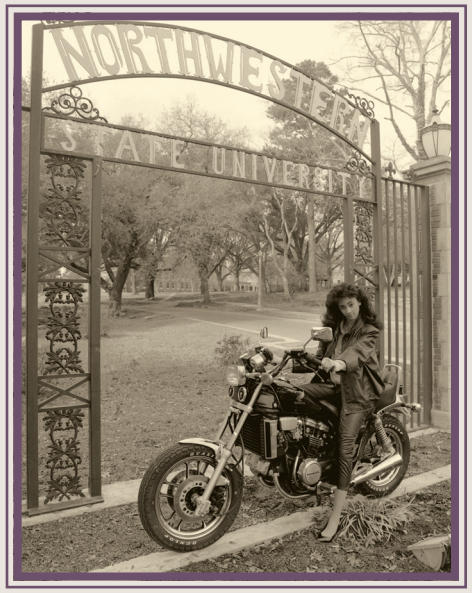
Purple Jackets, ca. 1977

Atlantis student organization, 1910

Purple Jackets, 1934

Student chapter, NAACP, ca. 1970

Getting Around the Campus Over the Years



N125

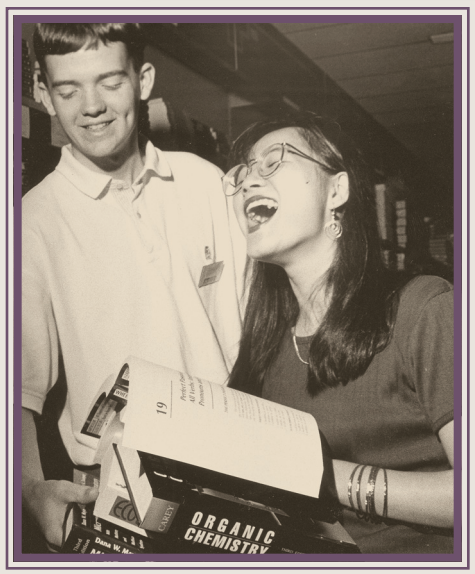
Spirit Groups and Vic the Demon

N125

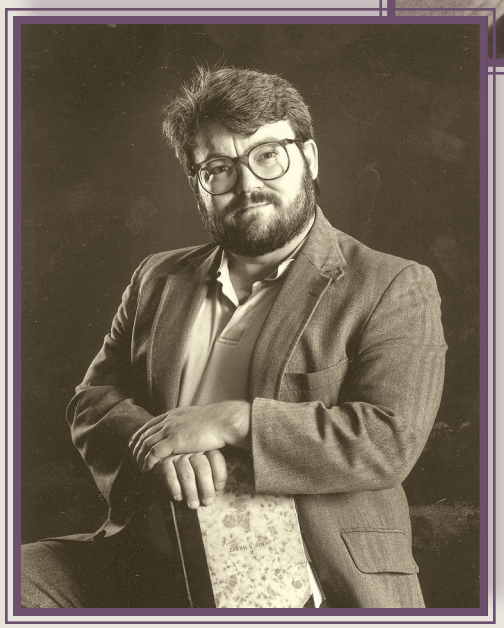
Normal School
watermelon party, 1915

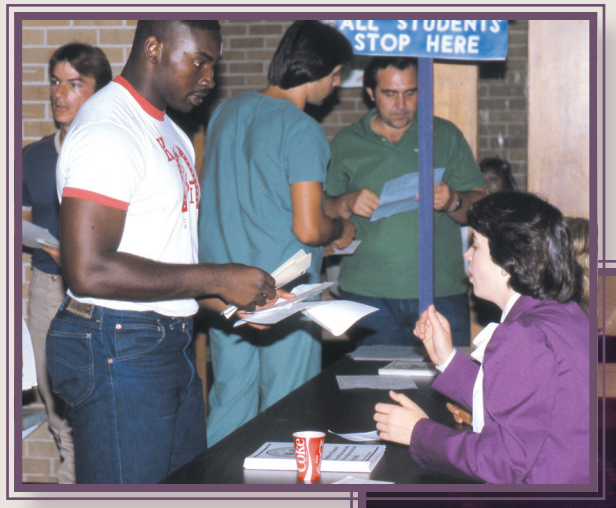
Science Foundation watermelon party, 1963

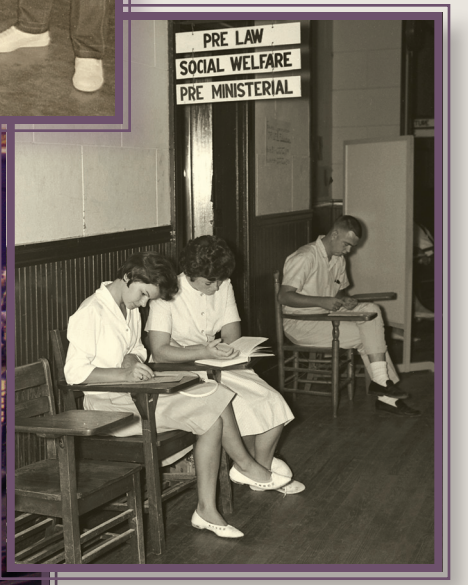
Watermelon party, 1986



Students at Work and Play in the 1980s







Student Registration

N125

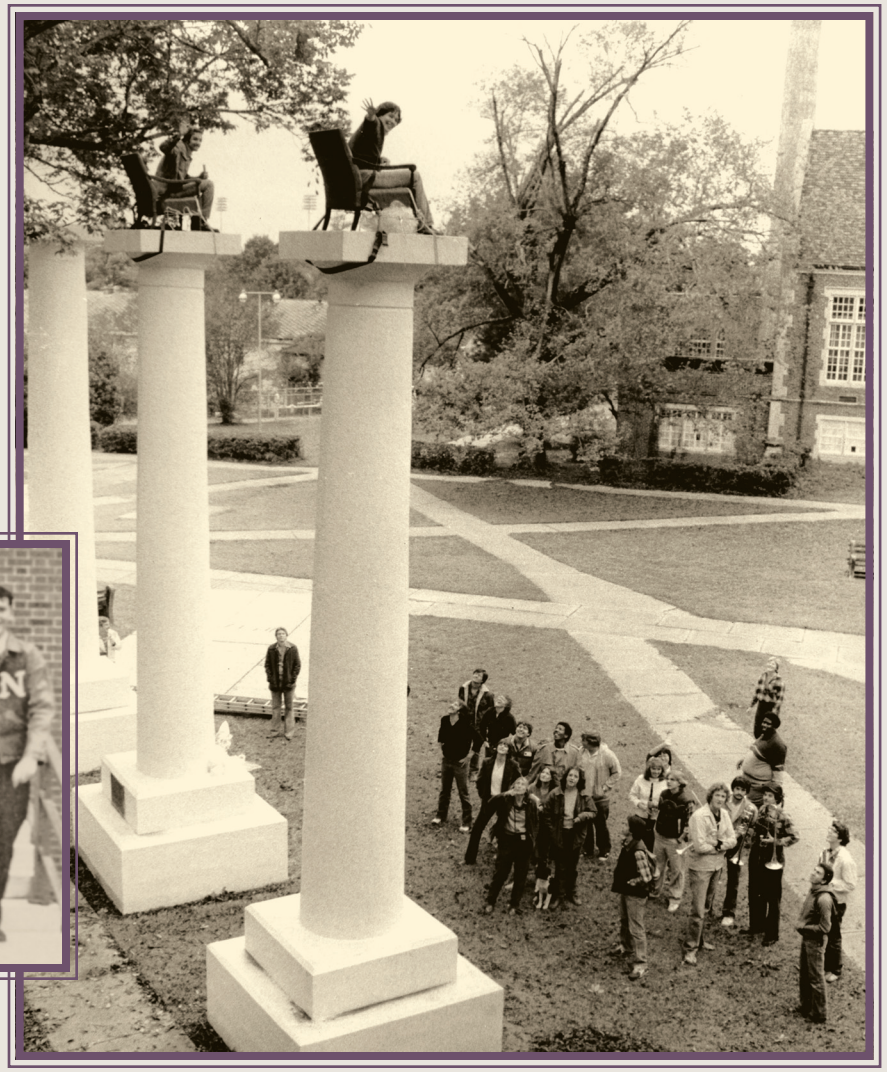
Cheerleader squad, 1970

Basketball fans, ca. 1980

Blue Key awards, 1970

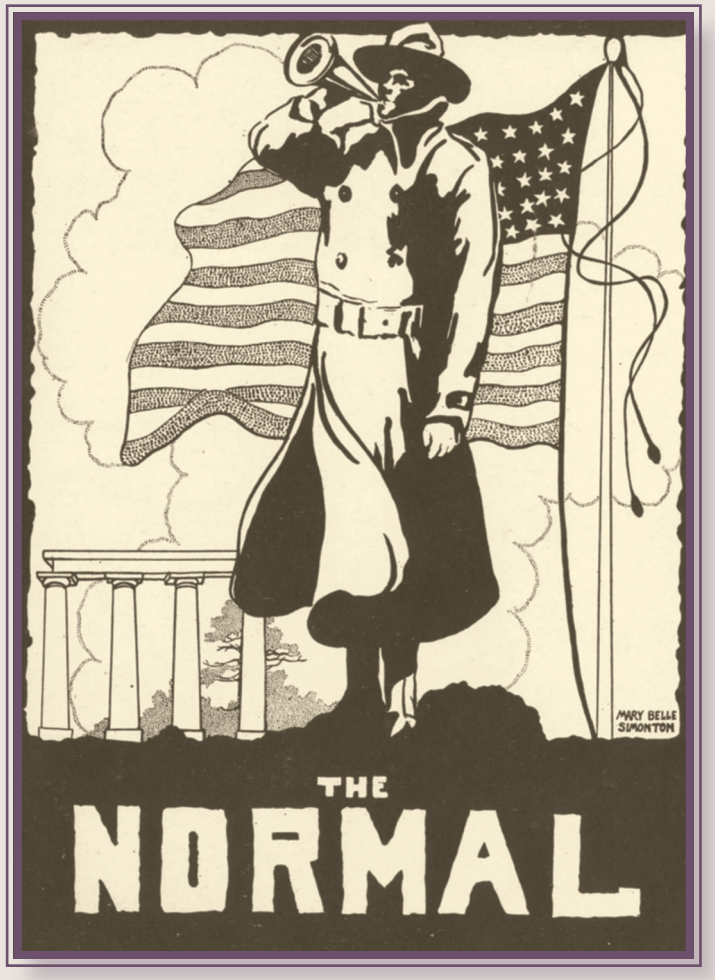
Debate team, 1970

Normal College Debate Team, 1942

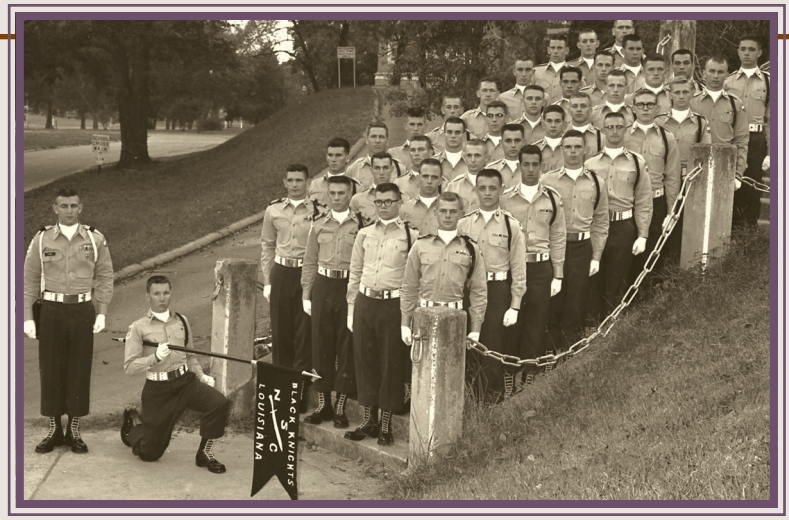


KNWD promotional event, 1986

ROTC



End of World War I, 1919 *Potpourri*



Black Knights drill team, 1970s

Cadet field training, 1962

Part of the ROTC Cadet Corps, 1963

The ROTC flight team, 1960s

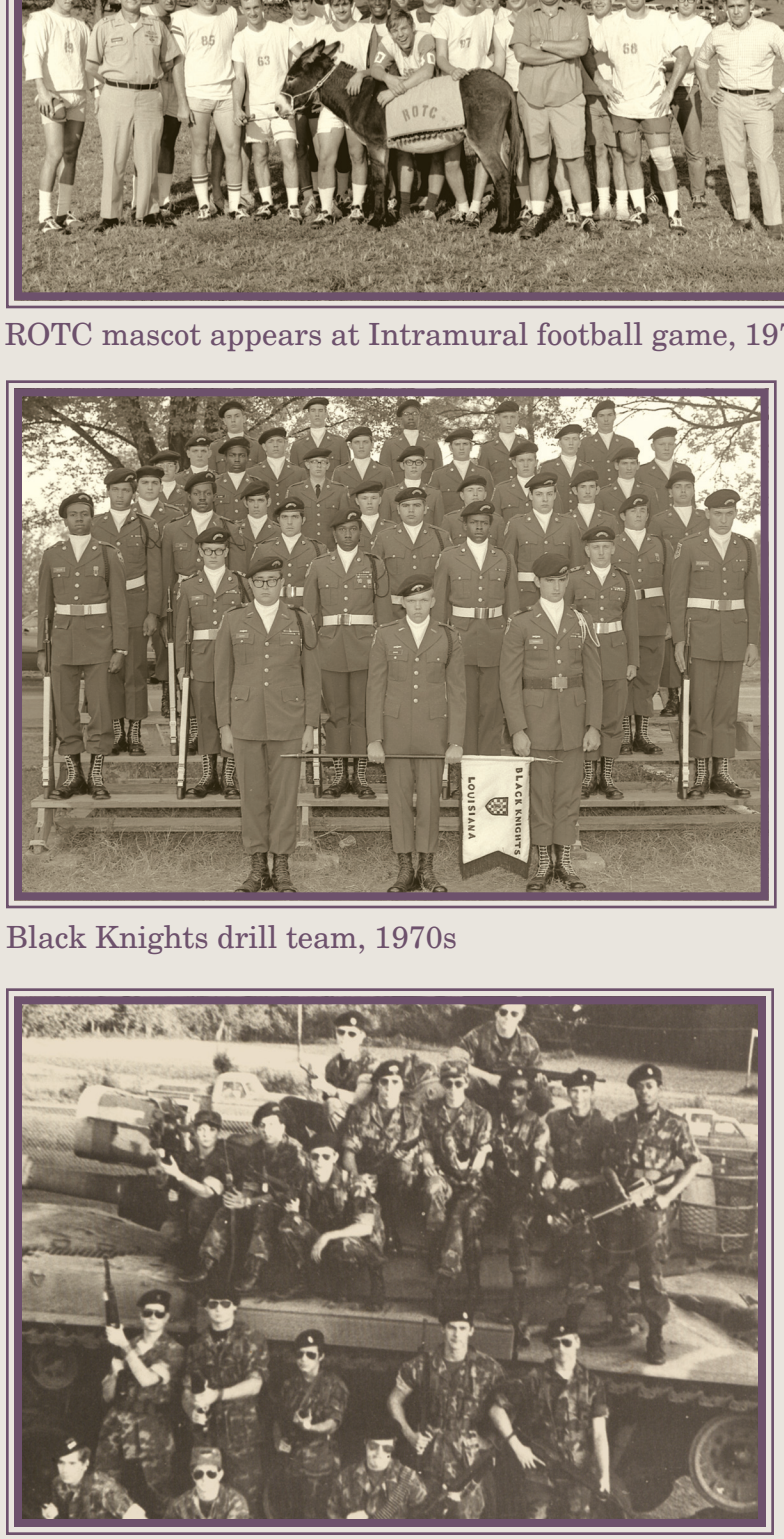
Black Knights in Natchitoches Christmas Festival parade, 1950s

ROTC mascot appears at Intramural football game, 1970

ROTC shooting team, 1964

ROTC Military Ball, 1970.

Black Knights drill team, 1970s



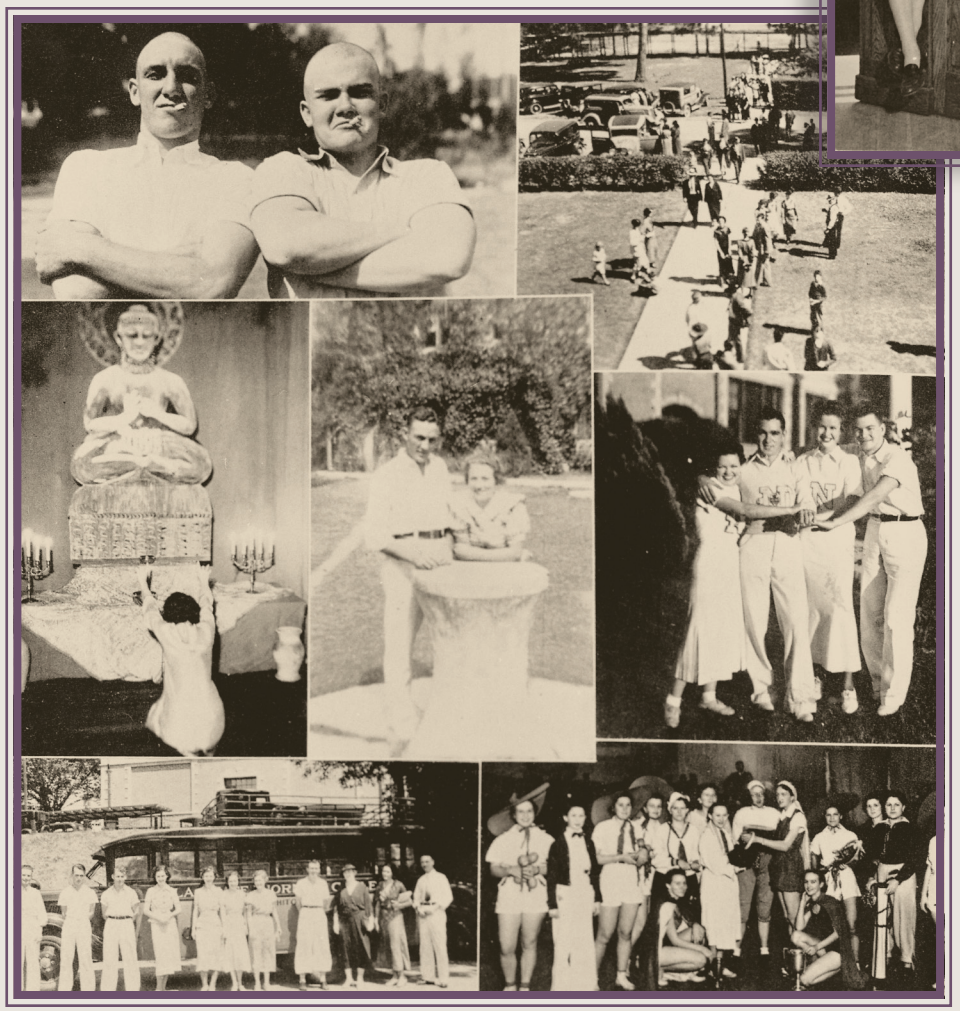
ROTC Swamp Demons, 1980s

NSU alumni, Camp Liberty, Iraq, 2008

ROTC cadet class, 2006

N125

Student Life 1930—1962



Dog Days, ca. 1960

Mademoiselles, 1962

Homecoming, 1960

Freshman haircut ritual, ca. 1950

Potpourri photos, ca. 1930

Lady of the Bracelet

Shelley Colvin, Miss LOB, 1999, with Kahne Diapola Bandaries, first Miss LOB, 1959

Lady of the

Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet

Brittany Pippin, Miss LOB 2009

2009	Brittany Pippin
2008	Mandi Ridgdell
2007	Corina Harwood
2006	Raven Bryson
2005	Courtney LaCaze
2004	Alicia Schulz
2003	Lacey Fletcher
2002	Amanda Crain
2001	Kristen Holly
2000	Sabrina Plaisance
1999	Shelley Colvin
1998	Rebecca Dauzat
1997	Farrah Reyna
1996	Jennifer Fox
1995	Leigh Cole
1994	Rebecca Bacle
1993	Melissa Mabou
1992	Cathy Huey
1991	Patty Breckenridge
1990	Karen Engeron
1989	Cindy Bethel
1988	Carol Jordan
1987	Dayna Dooley
1986	Kay Lane
1985	Chrissy Bailey
1984	Elycia Graham
1983	Lesa Hatley
1982	Kayla Murphy (Spring)
1982	Jennifer Todd (Fall)
1981	Stacia Caldwell
1980	Zina Curlee
1979	Barbie Jenkins
1978	Venetia Lee
1977	Denise Gueringer
1976	Cheryl Purcell
1975	Bonnie Outlaw
1974	Lehn Dohnman
1973	Lisa Thompson
1972	Elaine Rainey
1971	Kay McKnight
1970	Bonnie Martin
1969	Zelma Pylant
1968	Marcie Fowler
1967	Pam Rushing
1966	Pat Pace
1965	Ann Cleveland
1964	Sherry Boucher
1963	Pat Fulton
1962	Pat Copper
1961	Barbara Jean Dowden
1960	Bobbie Sue Craft
1959	Kahne Dipola

Mr & Miss Northwestern State University

Year	Mr. NSU	Miss NSU
2008	Roderick Wilson	Lauren Hughes
2007	Waylon Metoyer	Natasha Bennett
2006	Cody Newsom	Britney Burton
2005	Brandon Cormier	Catherine Caldwell
2004	Jamaal Hill	Ashley Dunham
2003	Dustin Mathews	Jessica Breaux
2002	Quincy Spencer	Laci Stokes
2001	Matt Courville	Molly Beach
2000	Mark Bullot	Camille Nunez
1999	William Broussard	Angelique Duhon
1998	David Deggs	Kelli Rivere
1997	A. J. Kennedy	Celeste Emmons
1996	Carlton Downey	Martha Hooper
1995	Dwayne Jones	Shenika Baisley
1994	Clay Gardner	Melissa Mabou
1993	David Rose	Jennifer Berry
1992	Steve McGovern	Cathy Huey
1991	Brad Brown	Linda Davis
1990	Darryl Willis	Lisa Lukowski
1989	Allen Evans	Cindy Wilson
1988	Kevin Peters	Melissa Canales
1987	Steve Horton	Rachel Heider
1986	Reginald Horton	Reatha Cole
1985	Chris Maggio	Susan Arthur
1984	Russell Bienvenu	Darlene Brown
1983	Stanley Powell Jr.	Allyson Breazeale
1982	Lytt Allen	Cindy Duke
1981	Cliff Lopez	Sherri Talley
1980	Jim Hoops	Karen Murphy
1979	Terry McCarty	Diane McKellar

Year	Mr. NSU	Miss NSU
1978	John McKellar	Mary Lyn Bartek
1977	Gregg Manning	Liz Posey
1976	Stan Haynes	Donna King
1975	Joe Sliman	Paula Jones
1974	Oben Jones	Helen Coutee
1973	Jack Damico	Nina Martin
1972	Greg O'Quin	Kathlyn Breazeale
1971	Allen Posey	Lynn Killen
1970	Richard Ware	Ann Kover
1969	Jerry Masters	Susan Brumfield
1968	Henry Burns	Janis Lowe
1967	Dennis Newbury	Ginger Foshee
1966	Al Dodd	Pam Rushing
1965	J.O. Charrier	Bettie Moore
1964	Jimmy Berry	Barbara Martin
1963	Jesse W. Crooks	Lucy Joiner
1962	Leonard Blanton	Leah Storey
1961	Roland McKneely Jr.	Linda Corley
1960	L.C. Cathey	Judy Wright
1959	Billy Jack Booth	Barbara Brown
1958	Shelley Richardson	Mary Ferguson
1957	Shirral Jennings	Beverly Anthony
1956	Dick Brown	Billie Sunshine Walker

Students, ca. 1942

Christmas caroling, ca. 1963

Student gathering,
ca. 1910

Students in the 1950s

Impromptu winter games, 1960s

Fieldhouse gathering, 1960s

St. Denis Dining Hall, 1966

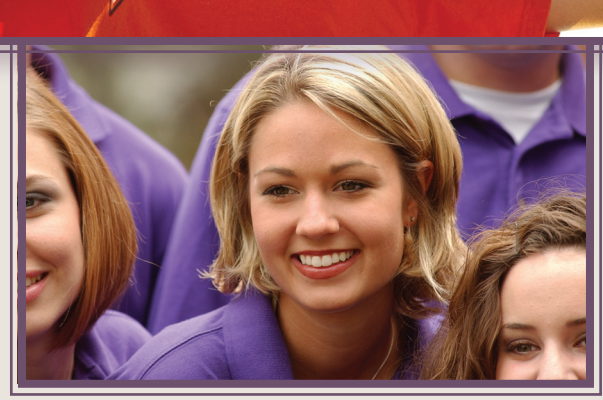
Student Association Board members, ca. 1970

Studying at Vic's, ca. 1997

Homecoming, ca. 1980

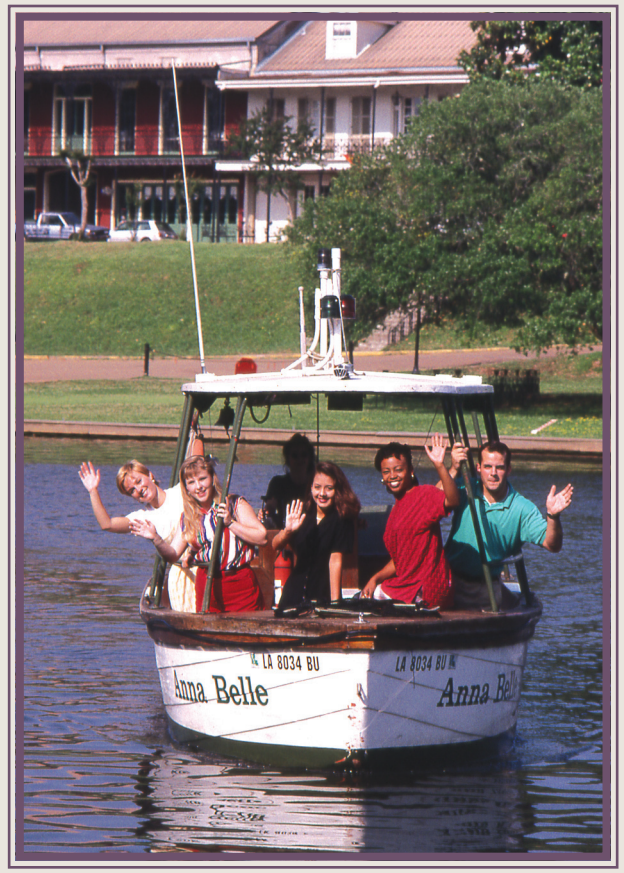
Student Activities Board, ca. 1995

Easter photo, ca. 1971



Lifeguards at Nesom Natatorium, ca. 1980

Normal boating class, ca. 1912



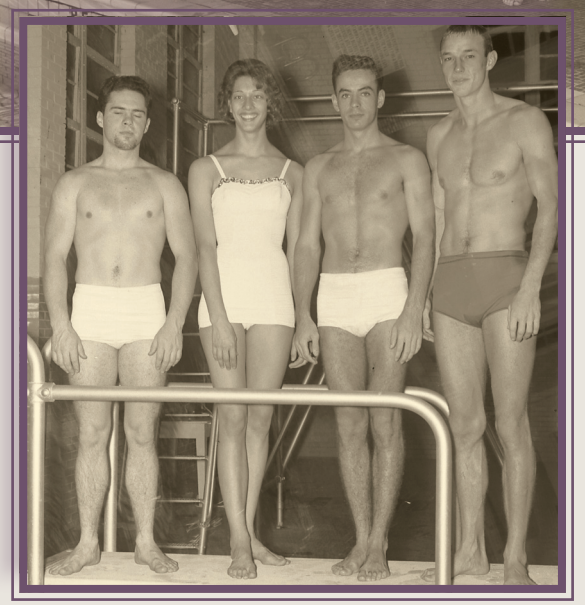
Sightseeing on Cane River, ca. 1985

Campus swimming pool, ca. 1920

Chaplin's Lake, ca. 1970

Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex, ca. 1980

Neptune aquatic performers, ca. 1965.



Swim groups Flamingos (top) and Neptunes, ca. 1960

Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex pool, ca. 2003

Neptunes, ca. 1969

Ski team, ca. 1979

Crew practice on Chaplin's Lake, ca. 1990

N125

Residential Life

N125

54
KA

ΚΣ
ΤΚΕ

NSU HOMECOMING 69
C
L

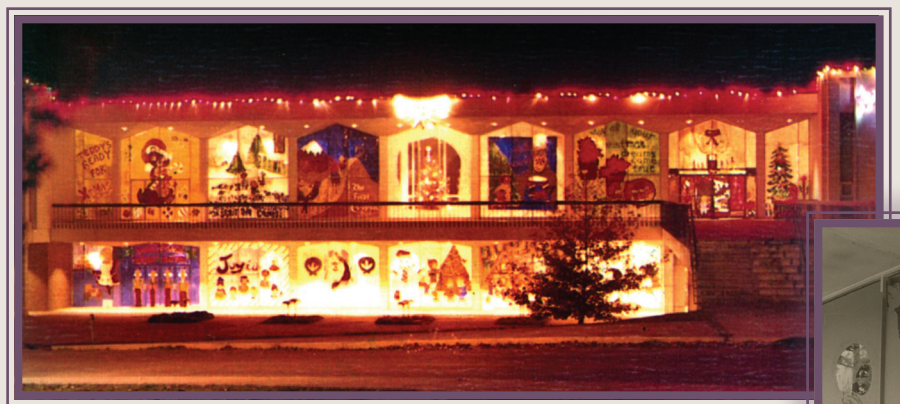
The
BRAND NEW
NSU
IS after You...
VARNADO DORM

N125

N125

Campus Life

Student Union Christmas Window Painting



Rodeo team, ca. 1980

Rodeo, ca. 1975

Rodeo Club milking contest, ca. 1969

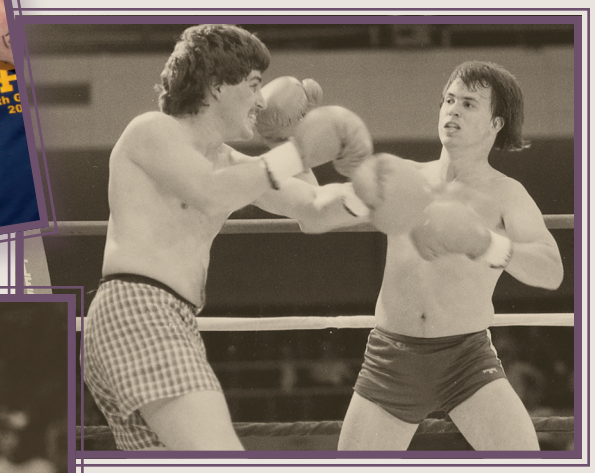
Equine science students, 1983

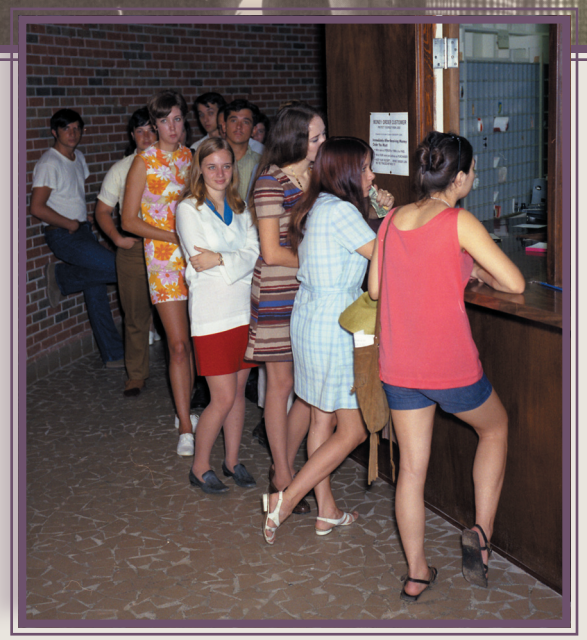
Roughriders rodeo club, ca. 1966

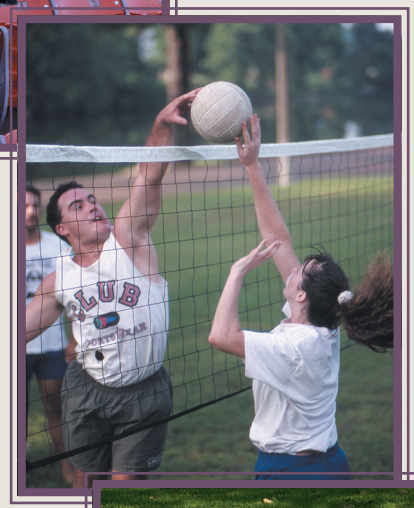
Line dancing, ca. 1966

Rodeo Club, 1960s

Campus Life





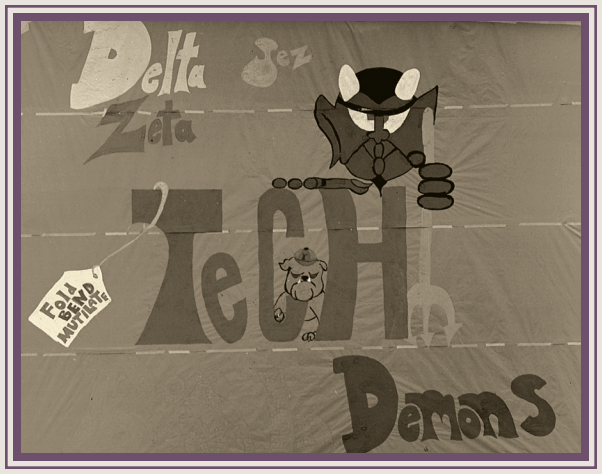


CALL
BOX

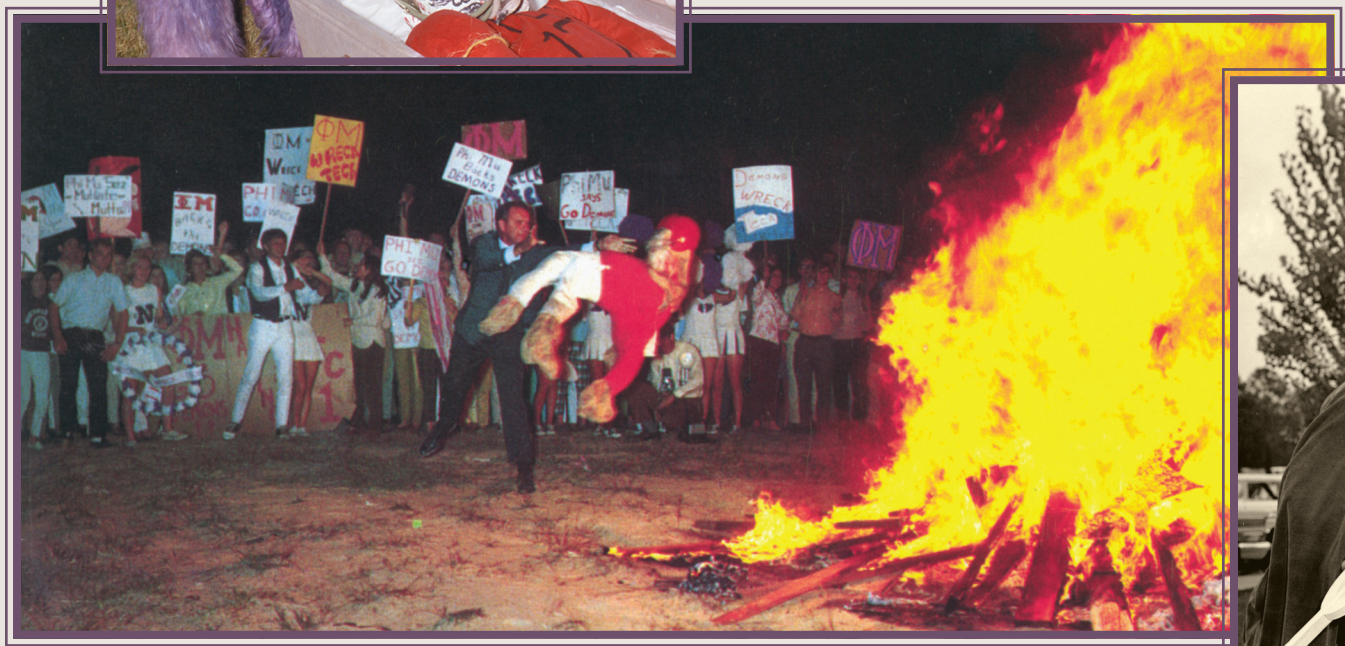
ΣK
SEZ
POUND
THE

LET'S
DOGS

Fork em
ΦM
DEMONS
WIN

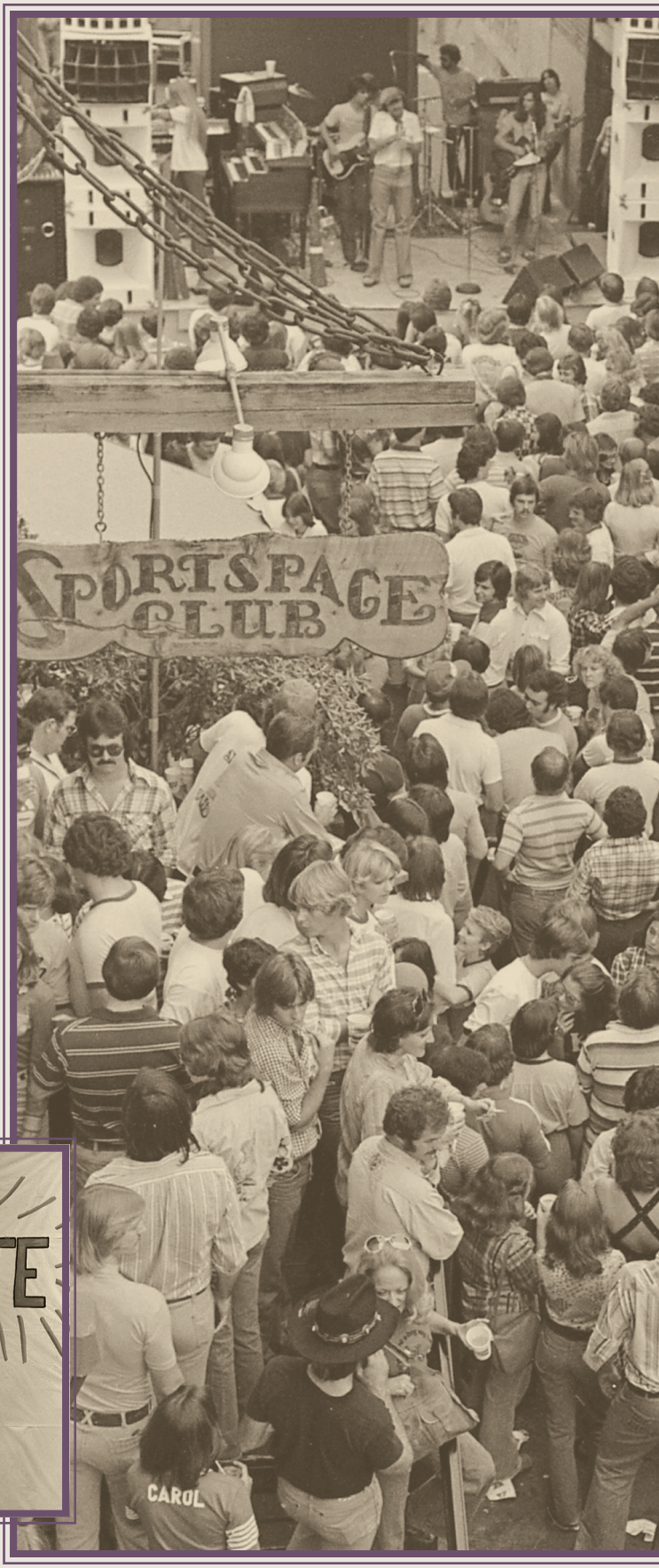

Delta Sez
Zeta
TECH
FOLLY BEHIND MOVING!
Demons

State Fair Football Rivalry Against Louisiana Tech

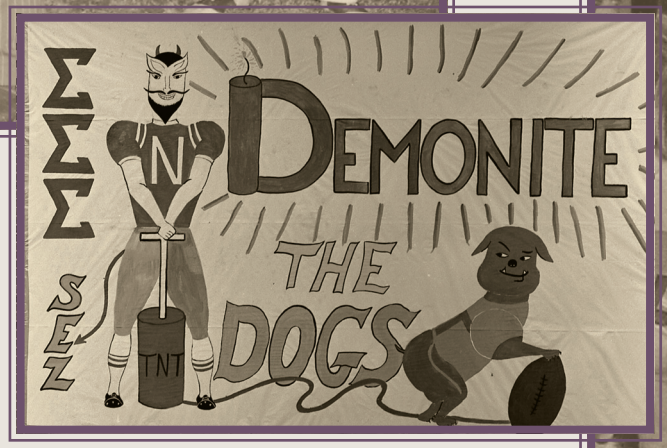


WRECK TECH

ORTHWE RN

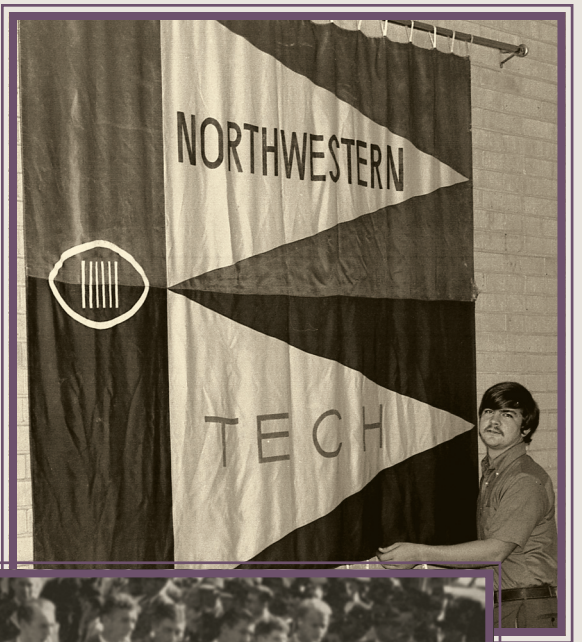

SPORTSPAGE
CLUB
CAROL

DEMONS
PENETRATE
THEIR
ENDZONE
ΠΚΦ

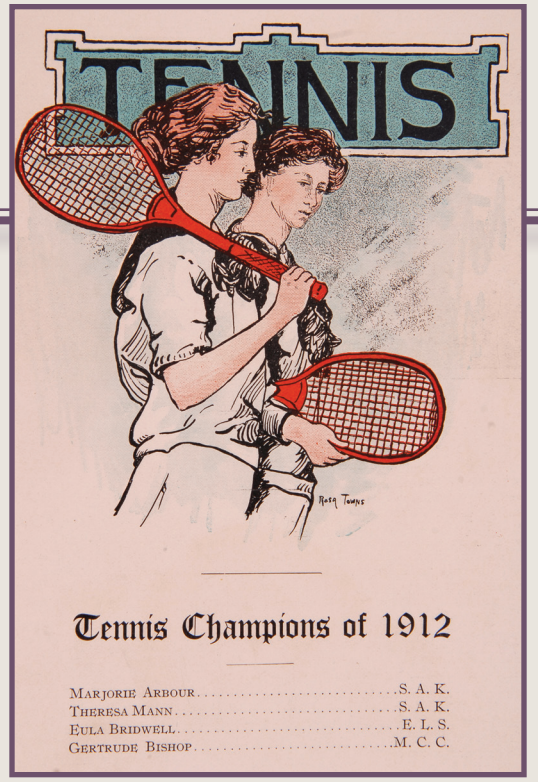

ΣΦΕ
SEZ
DEMONITE
THE
DOGS
TNT

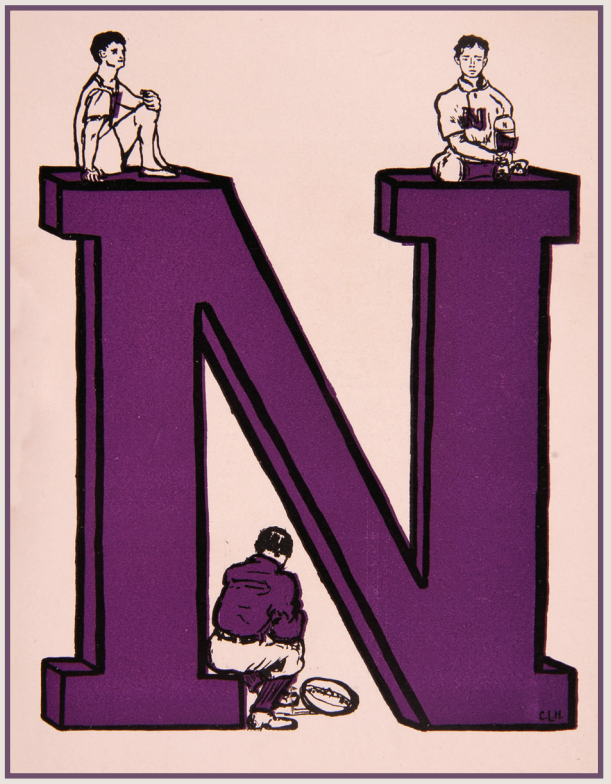
WRECK TECH

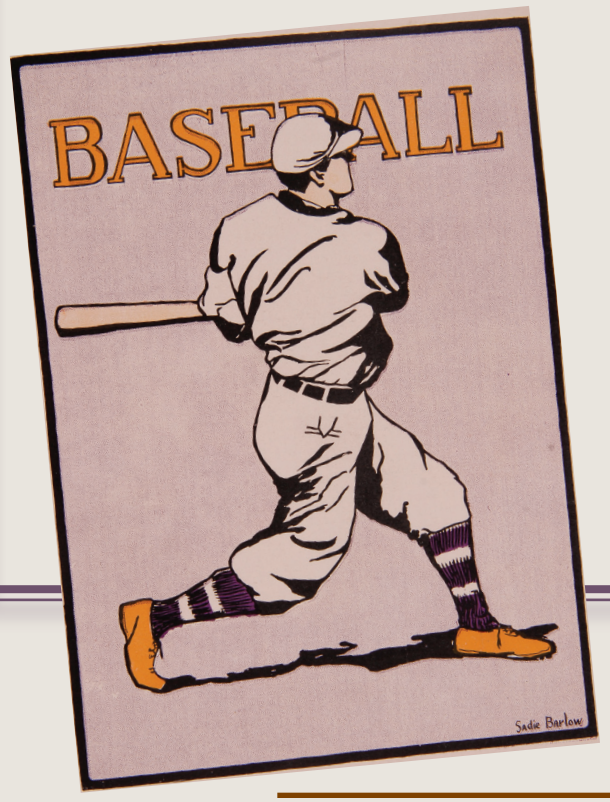
PRESIDENT'S
SEAT
JIM DOWLING
WE
LOST


NORTHWESTERN
TECH

GIVE TECH HELL







Potpourri illustrations, 1912

125 Athletics

Competition in intercollegiate athletics and all of the color, excitement and revelry associated with it has been an important tradition at Northwestern for more than a century. The school's sports programs continue to provide opportunities for student-athletes to succeed and excel while also generating enthusiasm and pride at the university and focusing positive attention and recognition on the school.

Baseball team, 1956

Baseball team, 1987

Demon Bat Girls, ca. 1987

Baseball team, ca. 1911

Baseball team, 1967

Baseball action, ca. 1942

N125

Demon Baseball

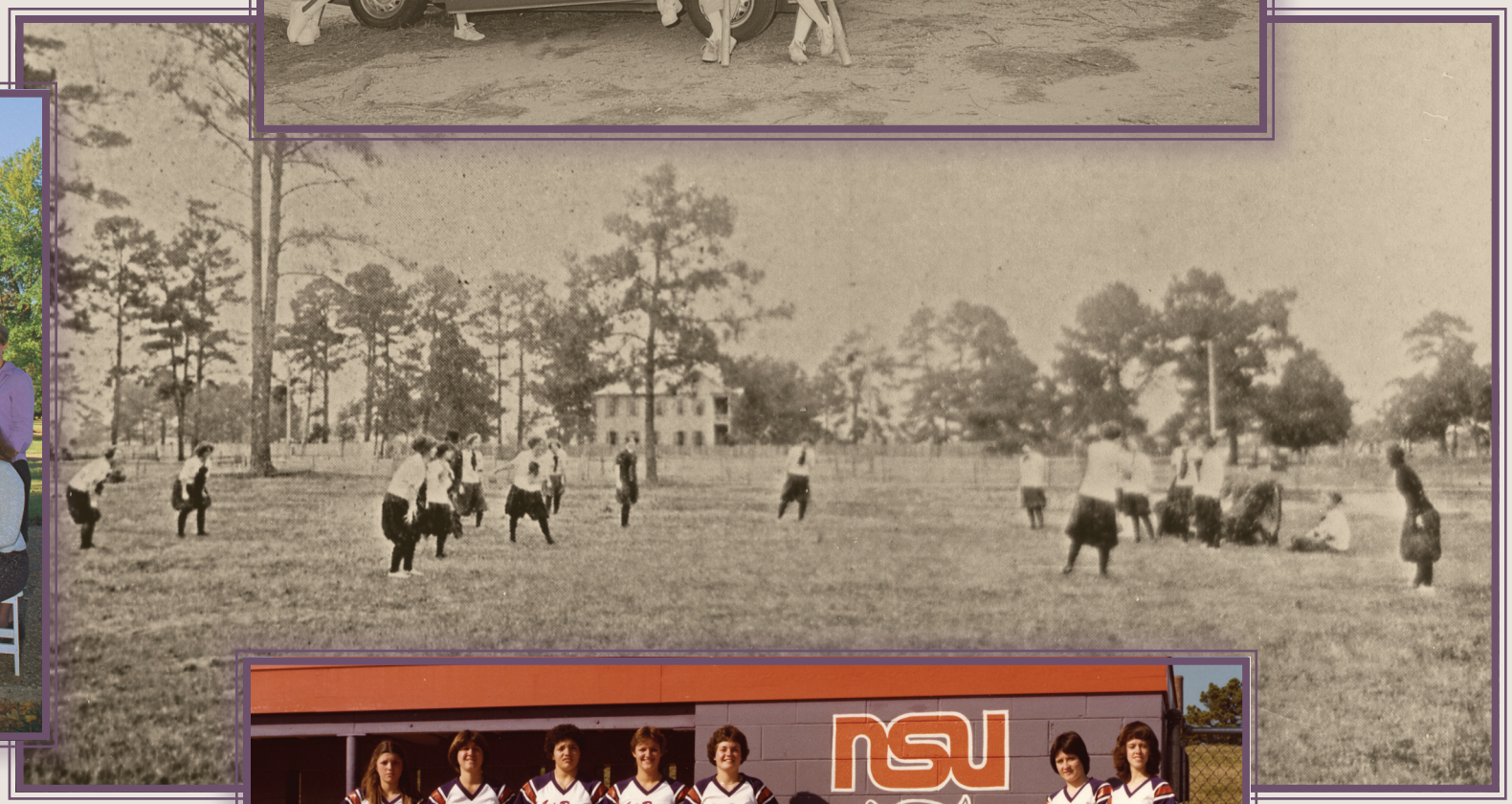
Baseball team, 2008

Brown-Stroud Baseball Field during LSU game, 2003

Game action, ca. 2002

Lady Demon Media Guide cover out-take, 1987

Lady Demons, ca. 2001



Normal softball game, 1911

Game action, 2007

Lady Demons, 1980

Lady Demon Softball

Demon Basketball

L. S. U. vs. Normal

THE Louisiana Tigers met the Normal basketball team on the local court December 20, 1916. Since this was Normal's first game of the season, the team had not yet had a chance to demonstrate its wonderful skill in the game. All felt that Normal could not afford to lose, but everyone had his doubts as to the results of the game. With a well-trained team and with the moral support of the entire student body, the Purple and White entered the conflict. When L. S. U. was ahead, the loyal support rendered by the rooters seemed to make Normal "pep up."

After a few minutes of play it became apparent that L. S. U. "had nothing on the Purple and White." Although L. S. U. was playing defensive ball probably three-quarters of the time, it seemed as though Normal could not locate her goal; and the first half ended with a score of 9-9.

The second half started with even more "pep" than the first. Normal immediately passed Louisiana, and stayed ahead for the remainder of the game. Due to the close guarding of Normal's crack guards, the Tigers were unable to score a field goal during the latter half; but Normal's fast center and forwards scored repeatedly.

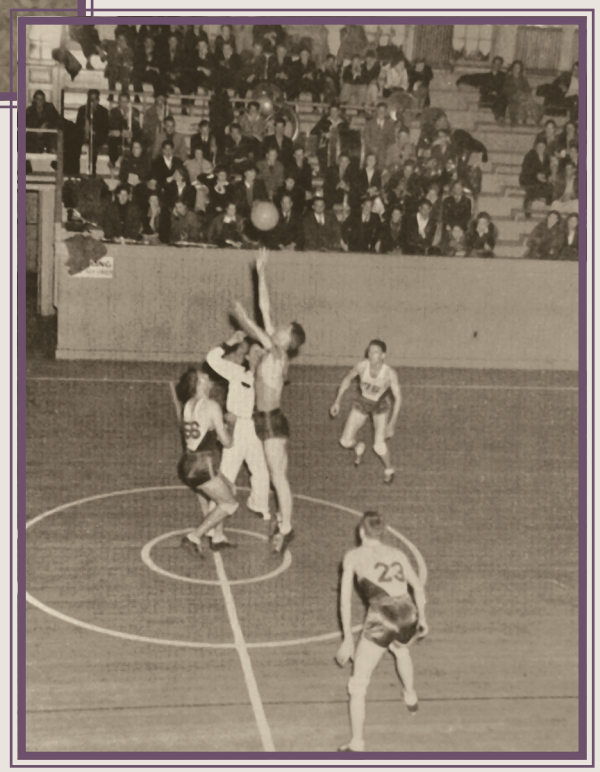
Occasionally heard from the few supporters of L. S. U. was the Louisiana slogan, "Eat 'em up, Tigers!" The Tigers, however, were too far gone for support from the sympathizers of the Old Gold and Purple to help them. The game ended with the score standing 22-13, in favor of Normal .

The line-up for the game was:

L. S. U.		NORMAL
EDMOND	*Right Forward*	"TED" ROBERT
PEARCE	*Left Forward*	VERNON ROBERT, ROY
CAVETT	*Center*	MILLER, LEOPOLD
S. WILKINSON	*Left Guard*	ROGERS
GILL, LEWIS	*Right Guard*	BREDA

Coach Prather's 1919 team

Normal basketball team, 1932



Basketball game in old gym, ca. 1950

Basketball success, 2006

Lady Demon Basketball

1911

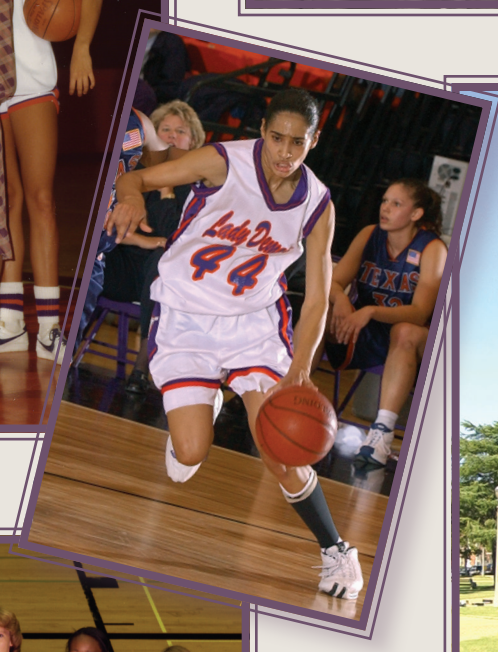
1915

1971

1919

1980

1985



2007

1977

NSC vs. McNeese at Demon Stadium, ca. 1957

Normal College's undefeated team, 1939

Normal School team at Caldwell Hall, 1909

Normal College game in Shreveport, 1932

Homecoming, 1969

Northwestern State College's undefeated team, 1966

Chief Caddo comes home, 2001

Football

Victory over McNeese, 1998

The Top 100 Players were selected by ballot and committee to commemorate 100 years of football at Northwestern 1907-2007

Corwyn Aldredge (TE, 1962-64)
Mike Almond (WR, 1975-78)
Butch Ballard (QB, 1973-76)
Don Beasley (QB, 1961-64)
Arthur "Tank" Berry (DL, 1981-84)
Nathan Black (WR, 1998-01)
Gordon Boogaerts (LB, 1970-72)
Billy Jack Booth (TE, 1956-59)
William Broussard (OL, 1996-99)
Greg Buckley (OL, 2001-04)

Jerry Burton (DB, 1960-63)
Mario Cage (RB, 1971-74)
Andre Carron (LB, 1988-91)
Tory Collins (DL, 2003-06)
Robert Daniel (DL, 1994-98)
Joe Delaney (RB, 1977-80)
John Dilworth (DB, 1971-74)
Al Dodd (DB, 1963-66)
Dudley Downing (OL, 1952-54)
Derrick Doyle (WR, 2003-06)

Mark Duper (WR, 1980-81)
Walter Edler (DL, 1967-70)
Al Edwards (WR, 1986-89)
Johnnie Emmons (ATH, 1948-51)
Jerry Fowler (OL, 1959-62)
Mike Funches (OL, 1997-98)
Larry Gaudet (LB, 1968-71)
Mike Green (DB, 1997-99)
Warren Griffith (OL, 1976-80)
Don Guidry (QB, 1965-68)

Ross Gwinn (OL, 1963-66)
Adrian Hardy (DB, 1989-92)
Bobby Hebert (QB, 1979-82)
Bert Heckel (OL, 1956-59)
Charlie Hennigan (WR, 1955-57)
Randy Hilliard (DB, 1986-89)
Keith Hodnett (K, 1985-88)
Dale Hoffpauir (ATH, 1956-59)
Derrick Johnese (RB, 2002-04)
Donald Johnson (RB, 1969-72)

Jamall Johnson (LB, 2003-04)
Jermaine Jones (DB, 1995-98)
John King (OL, 1987-90)
John Kulakowski (DL, 1984-87)
Brad Laird (QB, 1991-95)
A.K. "Buddy" Lancaster (ATH, 1948-50)
Monte Ledbetter (WR, 1964-65)
Walter Ledet (OL, 1934-38)
Kevin Lewis (DB, 1985-88)
Roy Locks (DL, 1999-02)

Tony Joe Maranto (DB, 1995-97)
Clarence Matthews (RB, 1992-95)
Gary McCrary (OL, 1968-71)
Terrence McGee (DB, 1999-02)
James "Red" McNew (ATH, 1953-56)
Robert Moore (DB, 1982-85)
Ed Moses (LB, 1990-93)
Craig Nall (QB, 2001)
Greg Necaise (DL, 1989-90)
Quintene Newhouse (DL, 2001-04)

Vic Nyvall (RB, 1967-69)
Victor Oatis (WR, 1979-82)
John Wayne Odom (OL, 1960-63)
Sammy Joe Odom (LB, 1962-63)
Ed Orgeron (DL, 1980-83)
Patrick Palmer (WR, 1994-97)
Petey Perot (OL, 1975-78)
Al Phillips (WR, 1966-69)
David Pittman (DB, 2002-05)
Mike Pool (QB, 1969-70)
Ronnie Powell (RB, 1997-98)
Gary Reasons (LB, 1980-83)
Dick Reding (WR, 1963-66)
Michael "Red" Richardson (DB, 1981-84)
Kurt Rodriguez (LB, 1999-02)
Jackie Smith (TE, 1959-62)
Marcus Spears (OL, 1991-93)
John Stephens (RB, 1984-87)
Scott Stoker (QB, 1986-89)
Glenn Talbert (ATH, 1961-63)

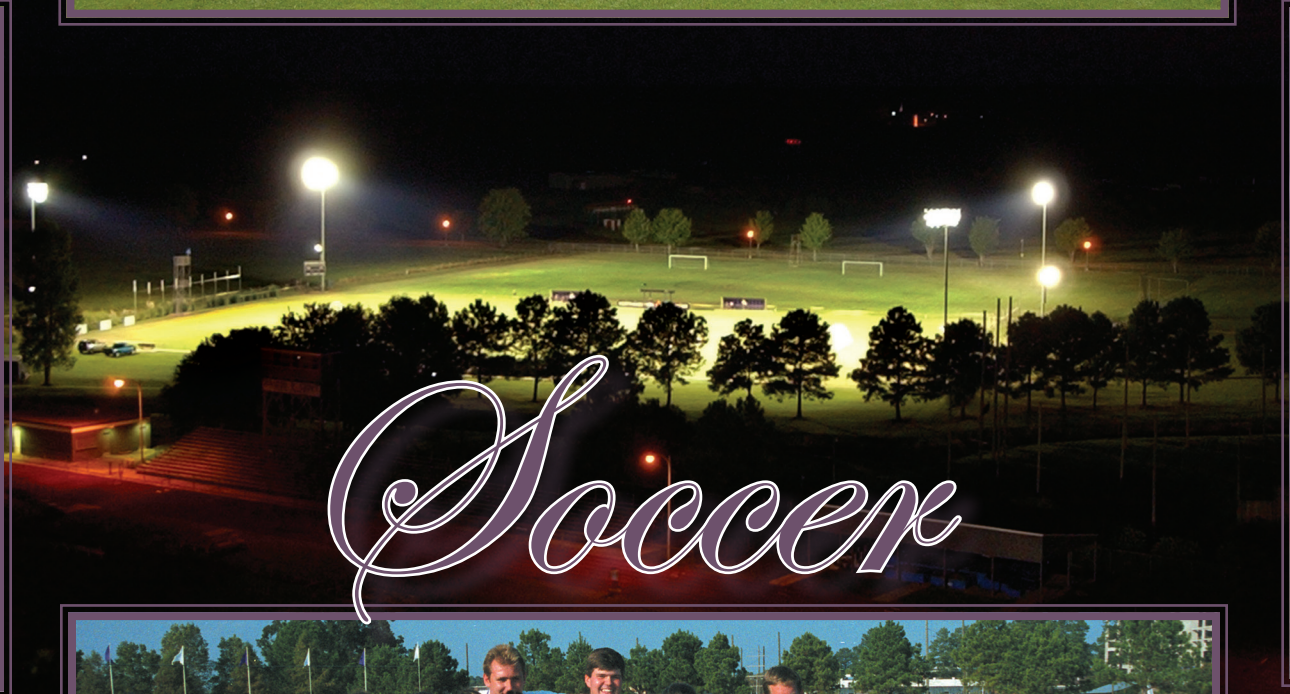
Bob Tatum (OL, 1951-54)
Tony Taylor (RB, 1998-01)
Gene Tennison (OL, 1998-01)
Keith Thibodeaux (DB, 1993-96)
Sidney Thornton (RB, 1973-76)
Charlie Tolar (RB, 1956-58)
Darryl Toussaint (DB, 1978-80)
Floyd Turner (WR, 1985-88)
Odessa Turner (WR, 1984-86)
Harry "Rags" Turpin (RB, 1926-29)

Randy Walker (SP, 1970-73)
Wayne Walker (SP, 1963-65)
Richard Ware (RB, 1968-71)
Russ Washington (DB, 2003-05)
Parker Wiggins (RB, 1940)
Ahman Willis (DL, 1999-02)
David Wright (ATH, 1976-79)
Kenny Wright (DB, 1996-98)
Ferrell Yarbrough (DL, 1958-61)
Toby Zeigler (SP, 2002-05)

N125

Top 100 Football Players
of the Century, 2007

Soccer team, 2004



Soccer

Championship team, 2008

Golf team, 1963

Golf

Normal students enjoy golf, 1918

Golf team, 1982

Track and Field

Normal track meet, 1911

Normal College's track meet at Alexandria, ca. 1925

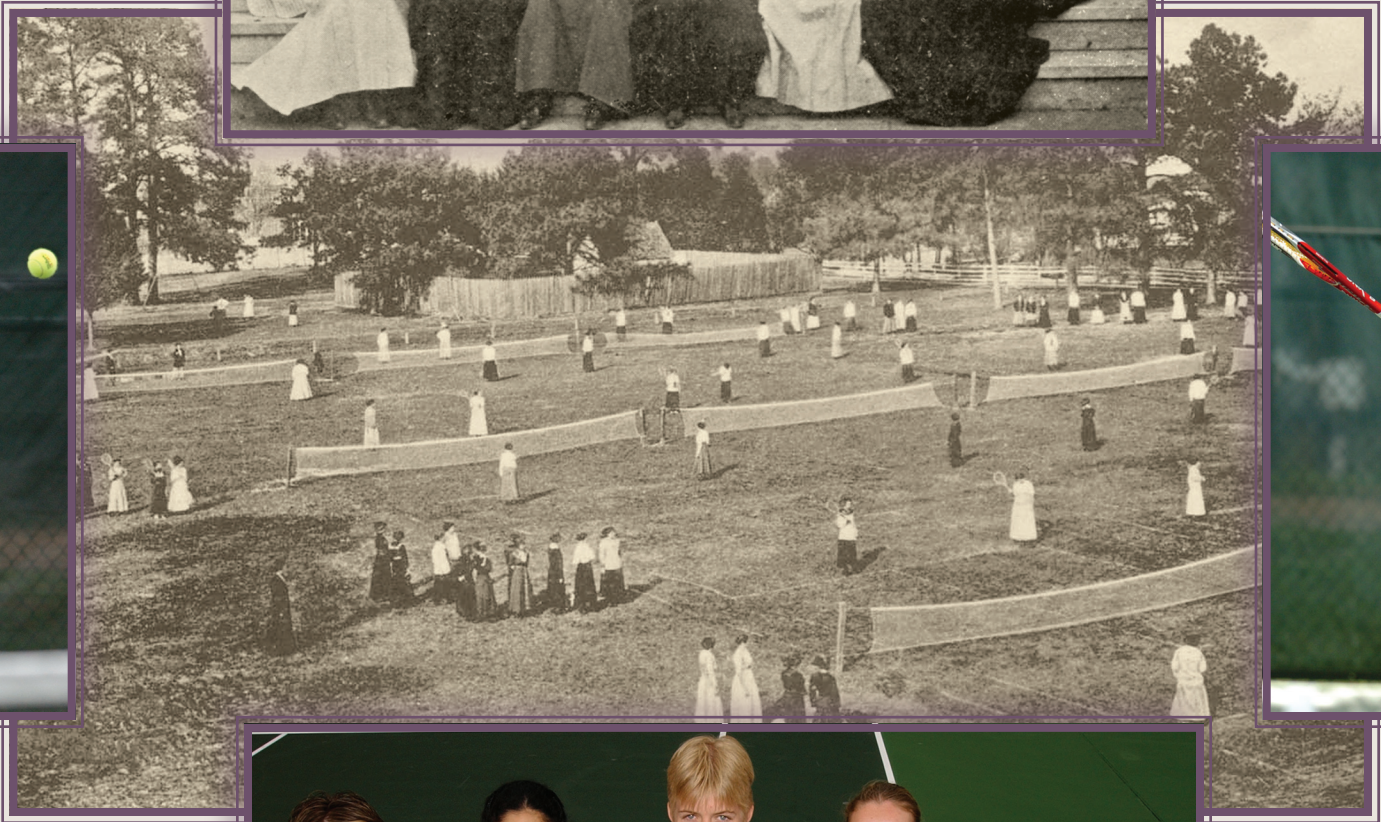
Track meet, 1990

Track team, ca. 1932.

1981 NCAA Division I national champion 4x100 meter relay team

Men's and women's track teams, 2002

Tennis team and courts, 1910

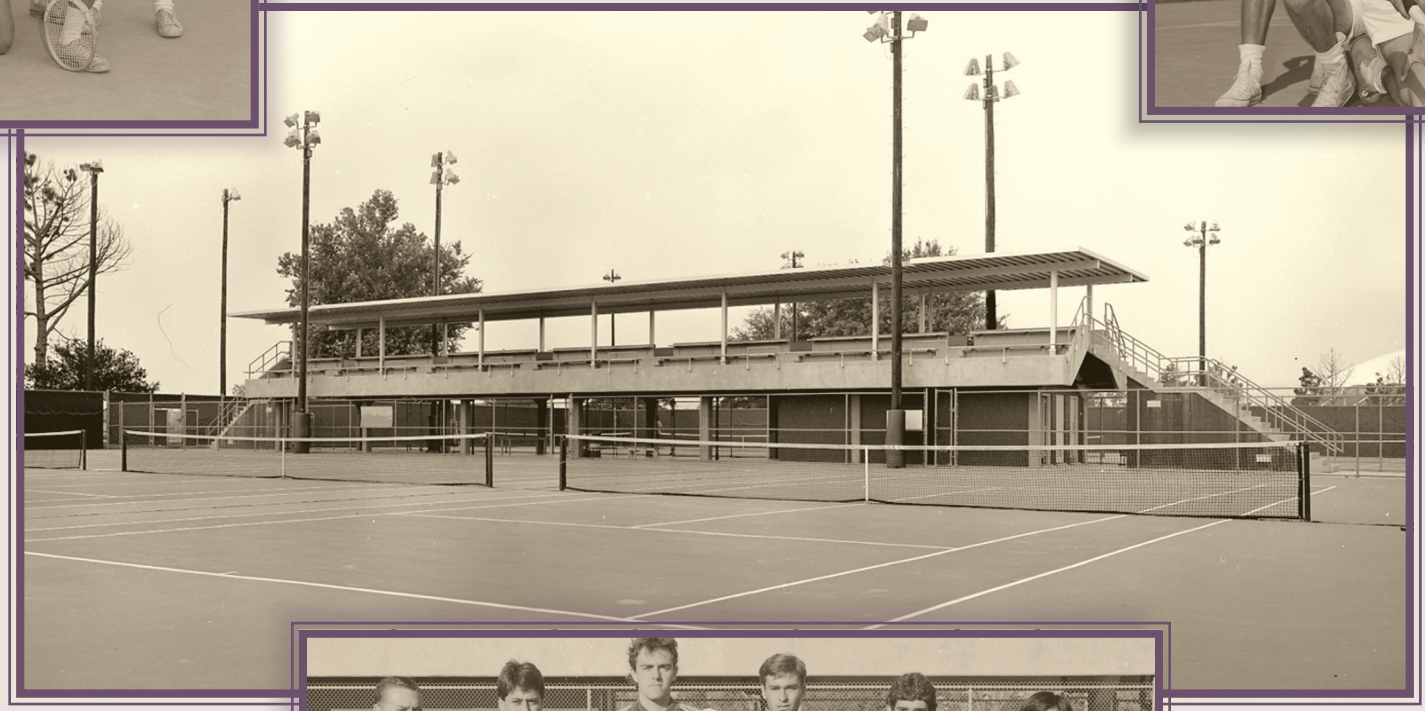


Tennis team, 2002

Tennis

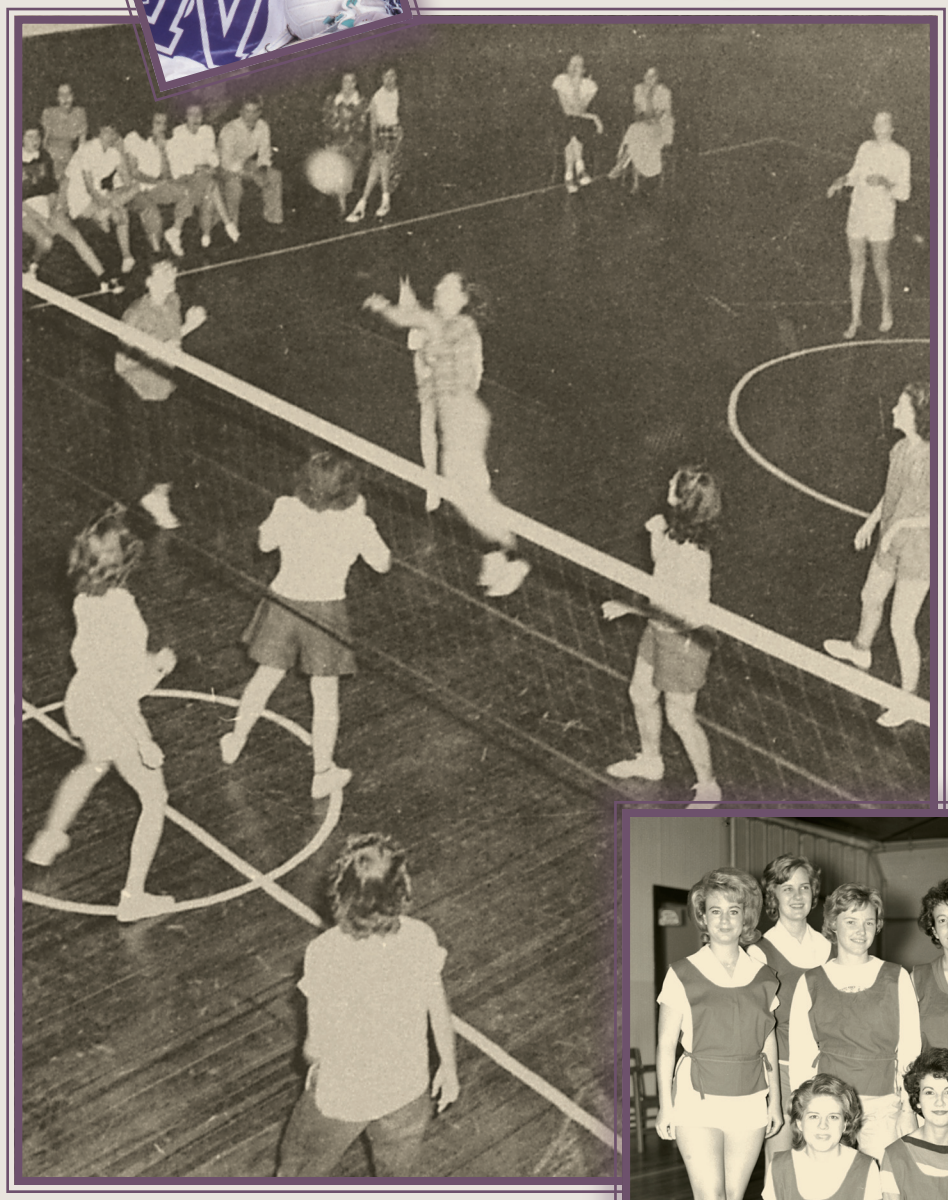
Tennis team, 1959

Tennis team, 1962



Tennis team, 1986

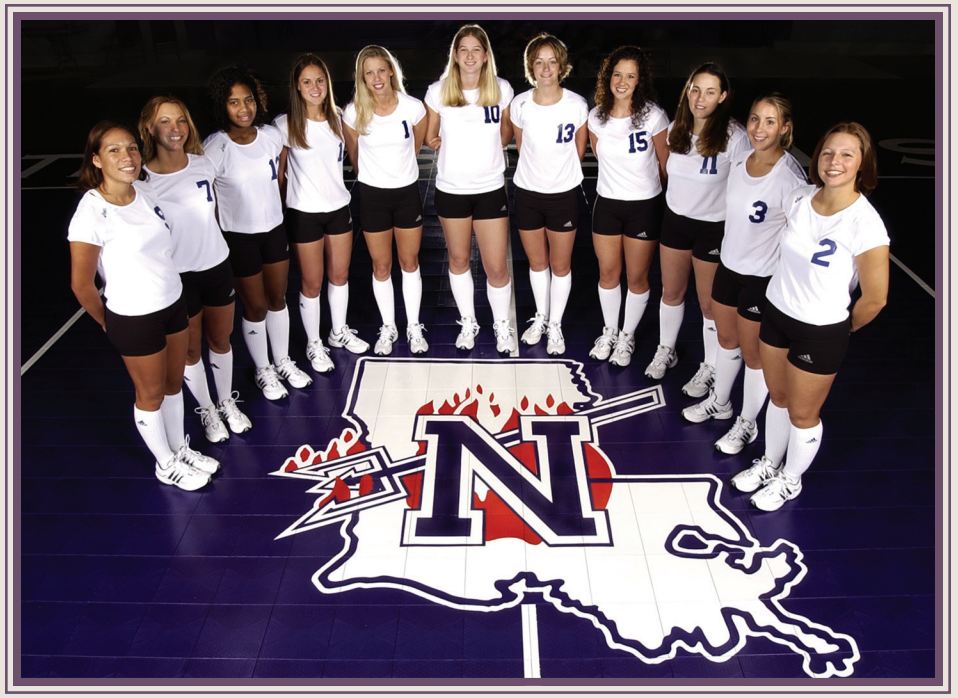
Volleyball



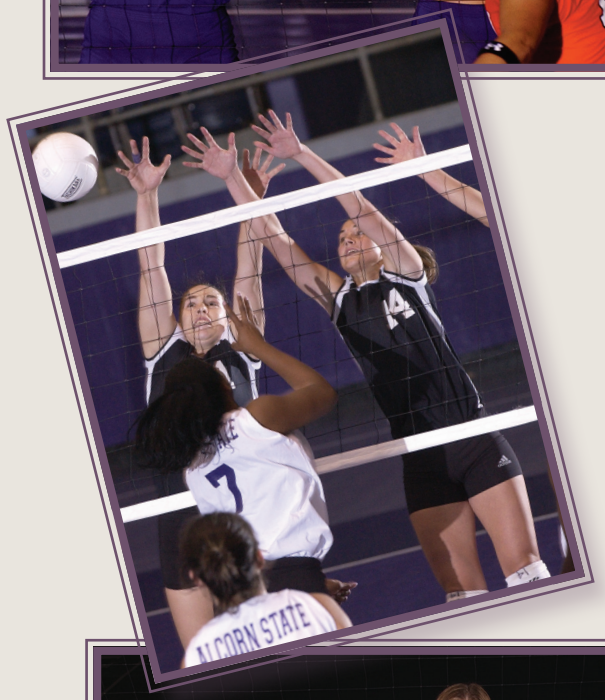
Volleyball game, 1949

Volleyball team, 1987

Volleyball team, 1963



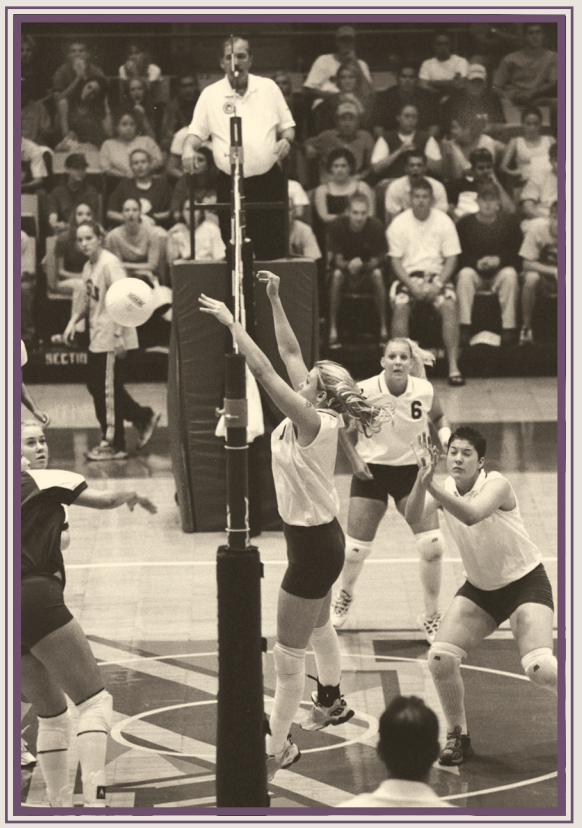
Volleyball team, 2002



Volleyball team, 2008

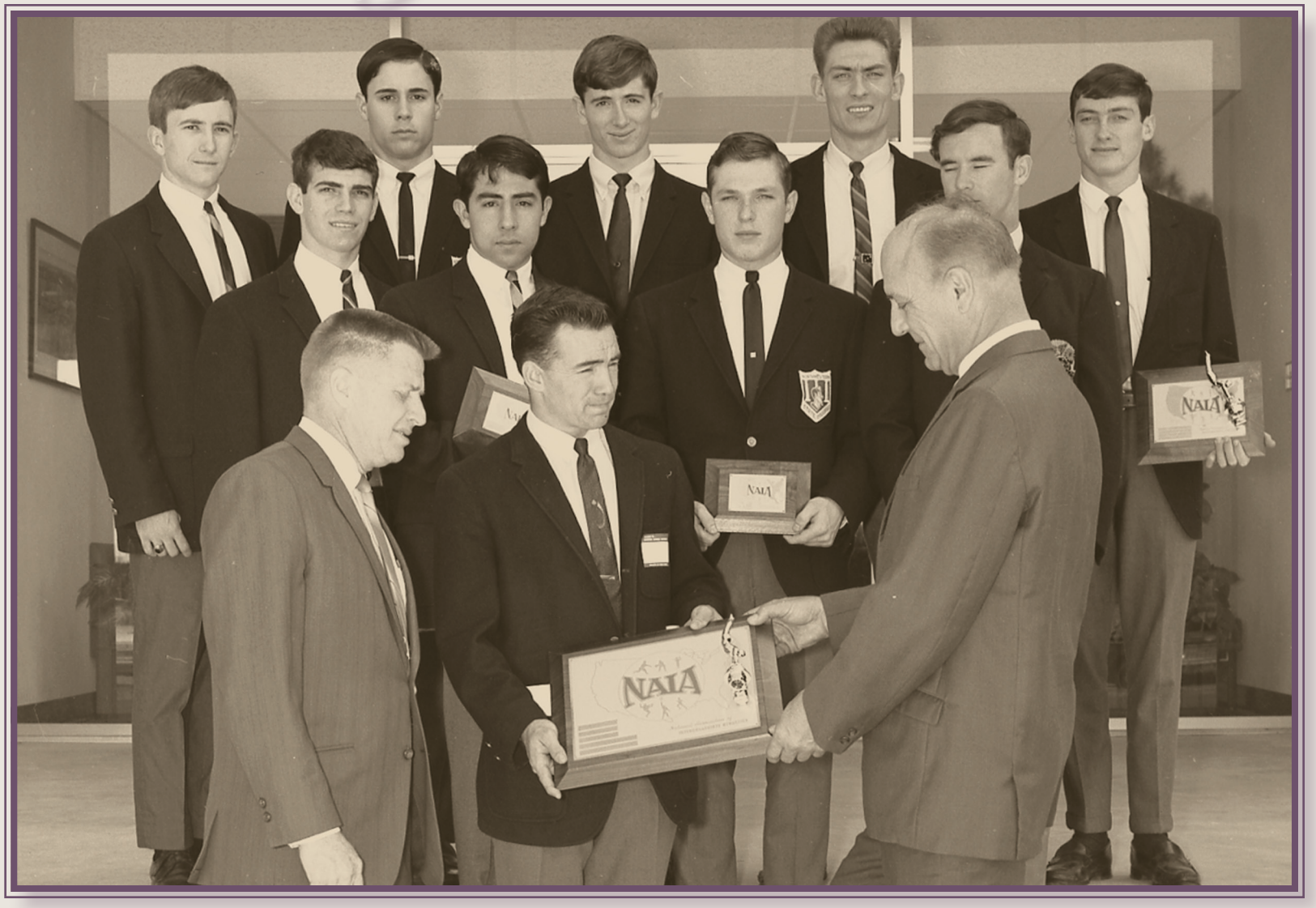
N125

Volleyball team seniors, 2005

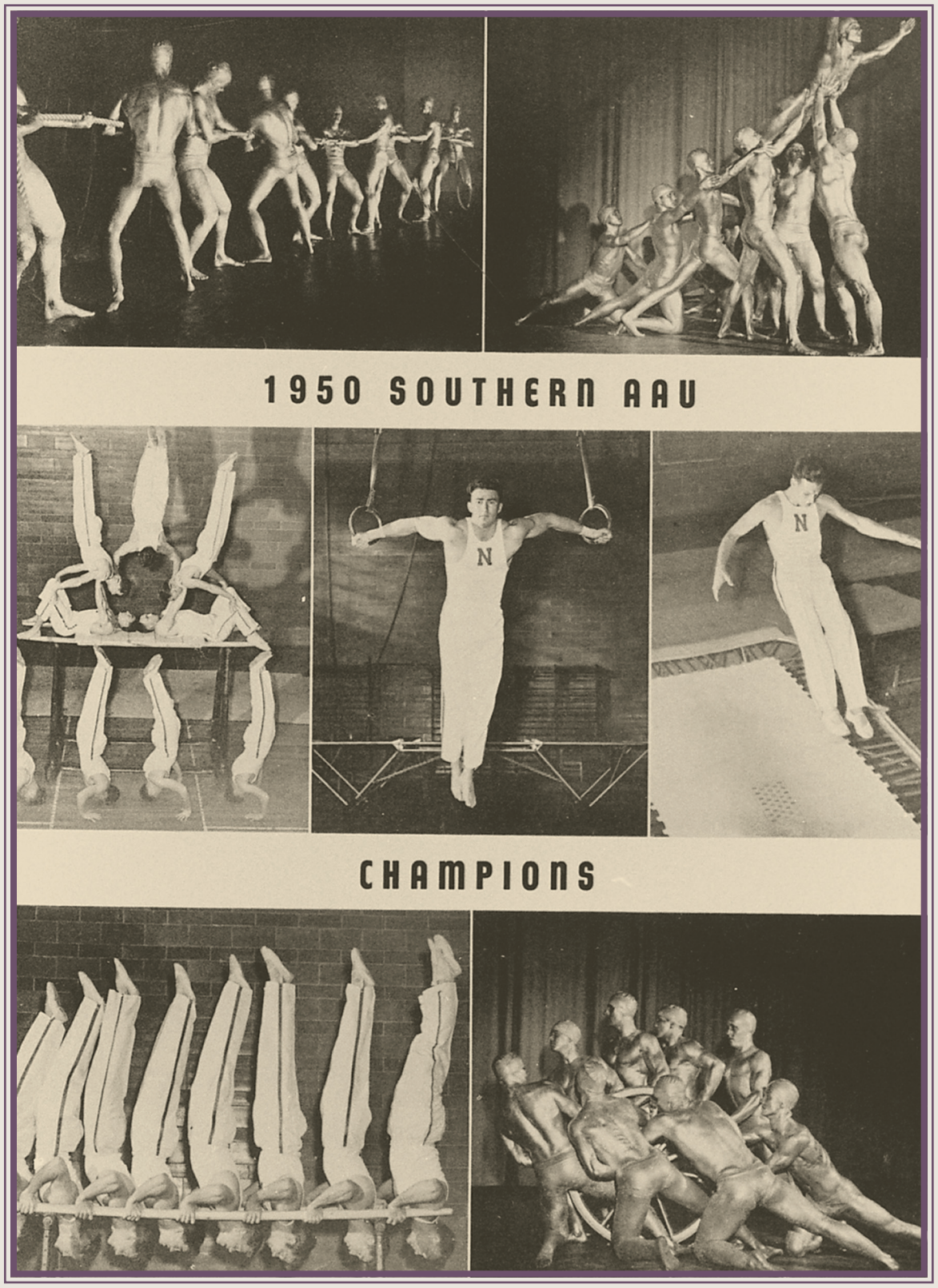


Volleyball, 2000

Gymnastics



Men's gymnastics team earns NAIA National Championship trophy, 1966



Potpourri photos, 1950

Gymnastics team, 1952

Gymnastics performance, 1960

West wing view of Bullard Mansion, ca. 1880

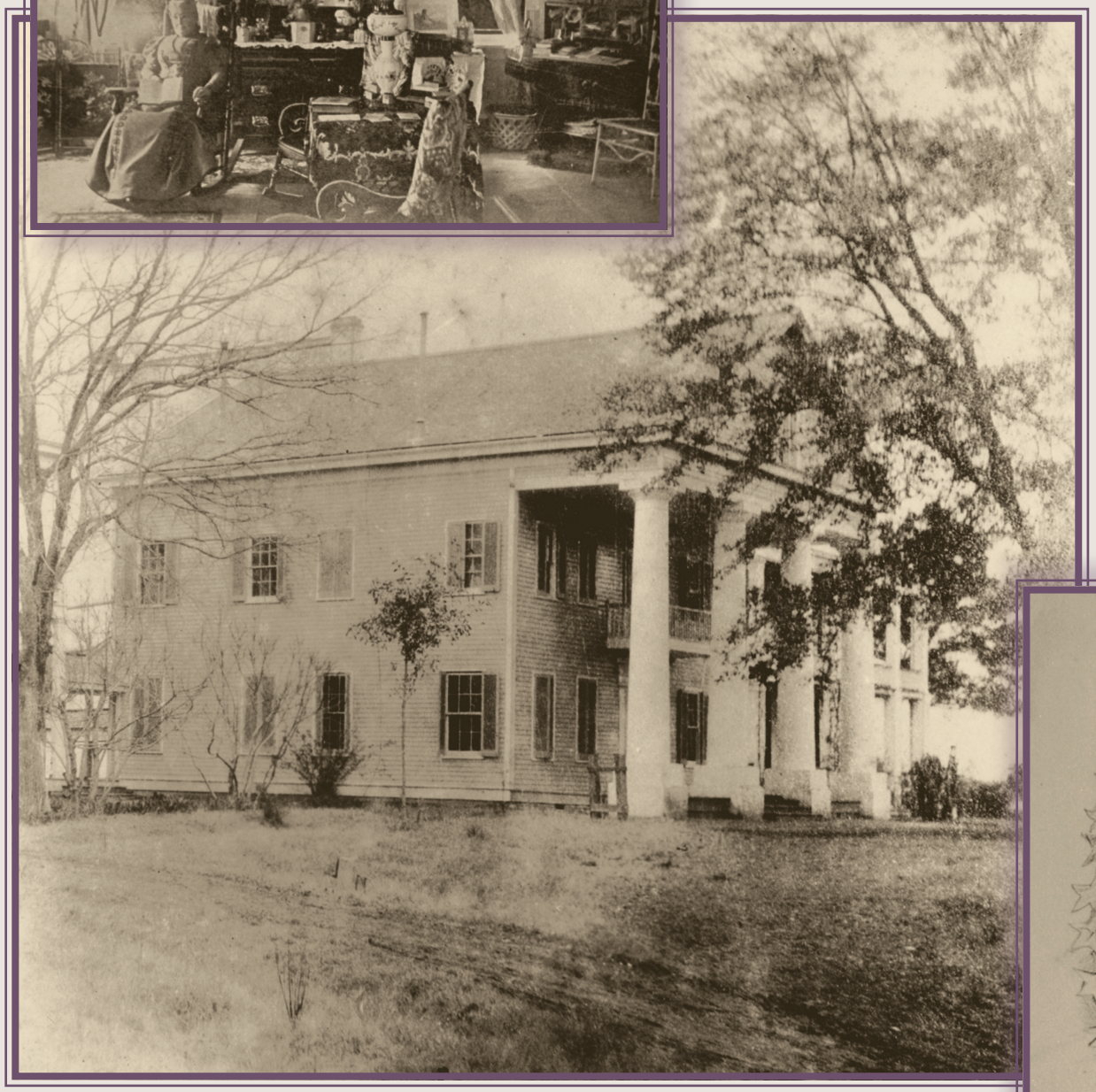
Hand-colored photograph of Bullard Mansion, ca. 1880

NU125

Campus Views

Generations of students have been drawn to Northwestern by the beauty and magnetism of the campus with its grand buildings of French and Colonial architecture, gentle hills, towering pines, moss-draped ancient oaks, flowers, fountains and open fields, pastures and lab school playgrounds, manicured gardens and plazas, ornate lampposts and a retired old brick power plant smokestack that stands as a reminder of different times.

Matron's Quarters of Bullard, ca. 1890



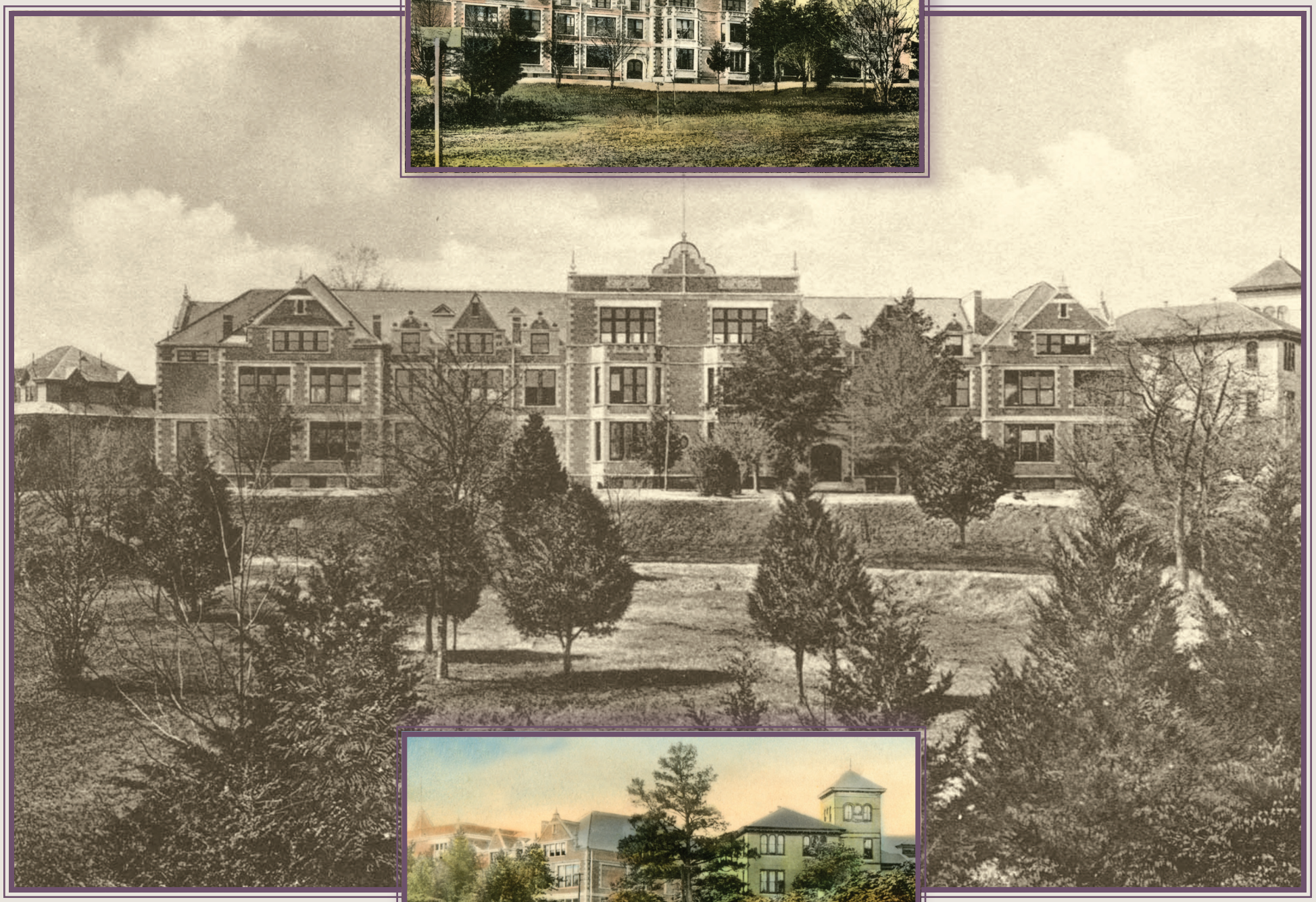
Bullard Mansion, ca. 1880

West wing of Bullard, ca. 1890

Miller Jack's drawing of the Normal campus, "The Original Normal," ca. 1889

N125

Normal campus, ca. 1900



Postcard views of Caldwell Hall, Normal Hall, ca. 1910

Unidentified building, possibly Normal Hall, ca. 1910

N125

Normal Dining Hall, ca. 1911

Guardia Hall and Boyd Hall, date unknown

Possibly Normal's old fine arts building, date unknown

Caldwell Hall and the rear of Bullard Mansion, ca. 1910

Bullard Mansion was condemned and razed in 1913, leaving only four columns standing; one column collapsed in 1937

Guardia Hall, ca. 1912

Women's Gymnasium, ca. 1923

Warren Easton Hall, ca. 1926

N125

Normal Hall student assembly, ca. 1890

Caldwell Hall student and faculty assembly, ca. 1906

Infirmary, ca. 1925

Sheib Hall (Brick Shack) men's dormitory, constructed 1910

Dormitory court, ca. 1920

Dormitory court, ca. 1920

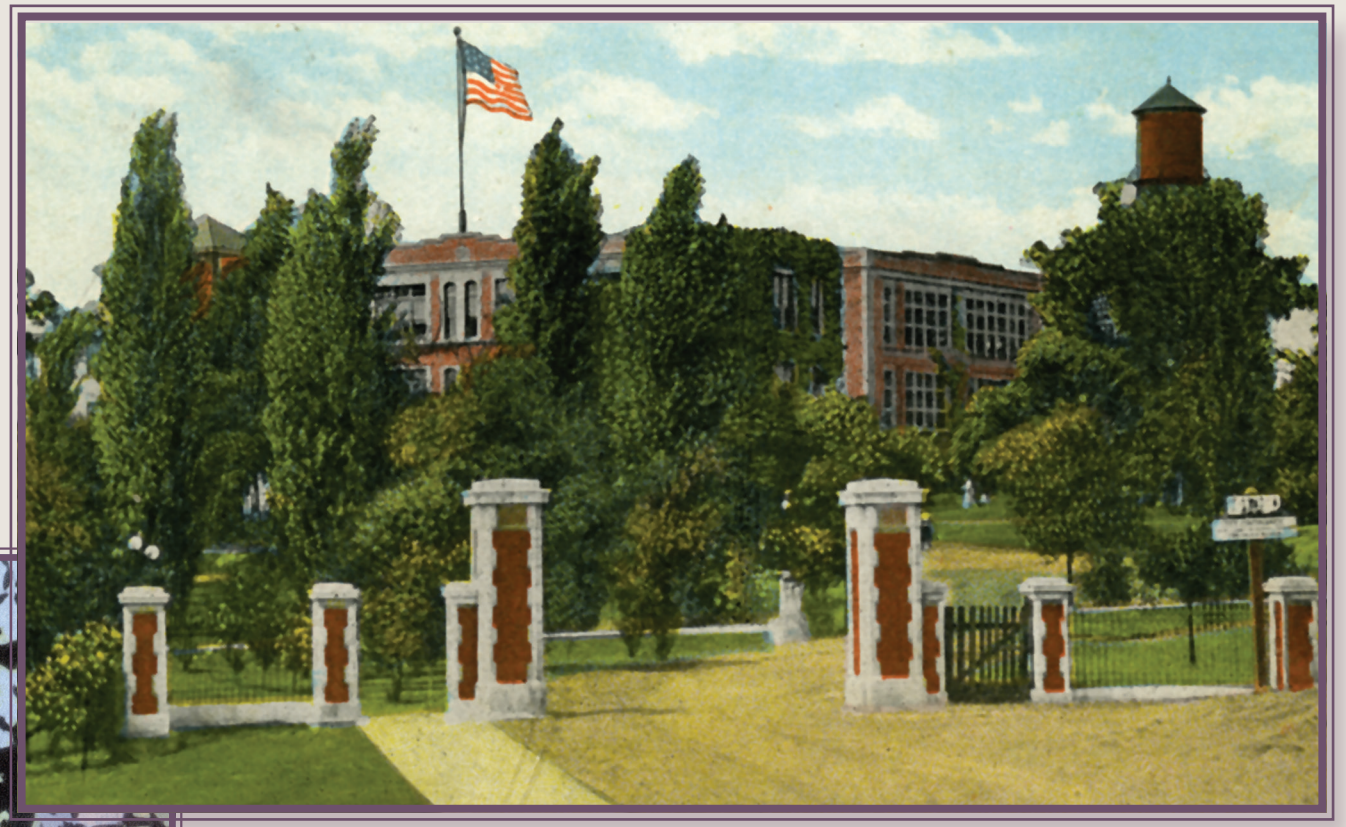
Sleeping porch, ca. 1910

Rebel Hall site marker dedication, ca. 1994

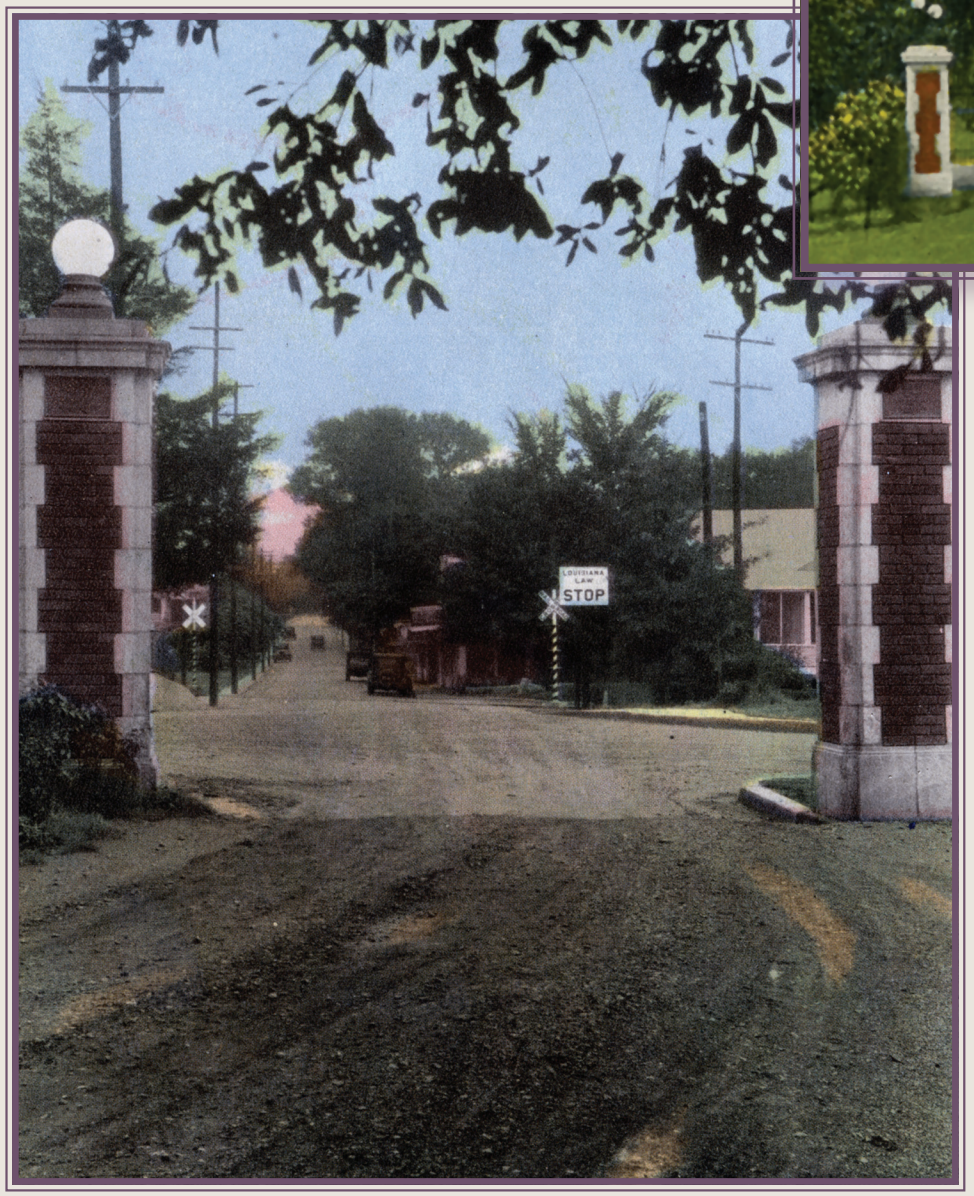
Rebel Hall

N125

View of Caldwell Hall from front gate, ca. 1912

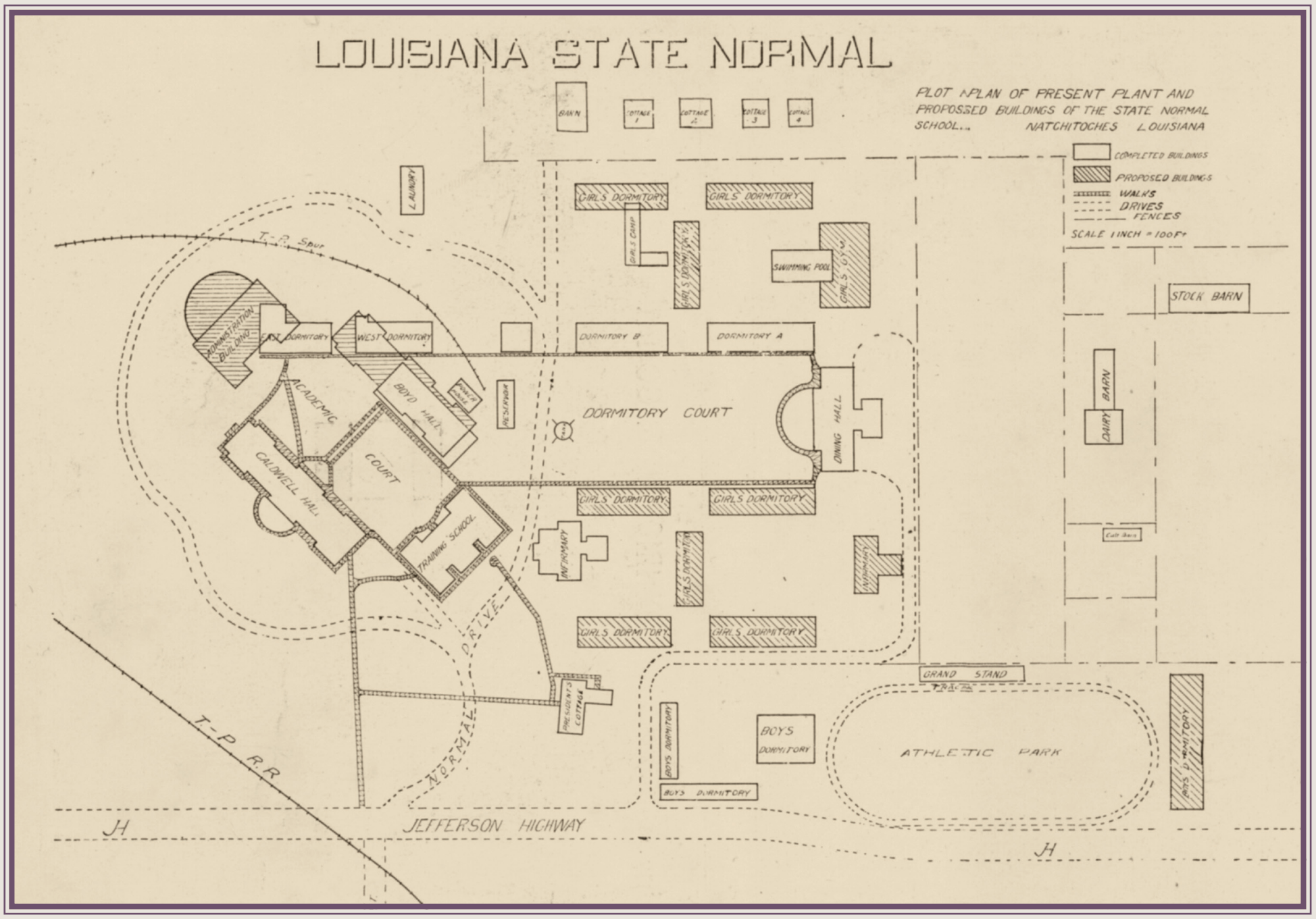


Guardia Hall view from main gate, ca. 1920



Normal College sign, ca. 1930

Normal School main gate, ca. 1912

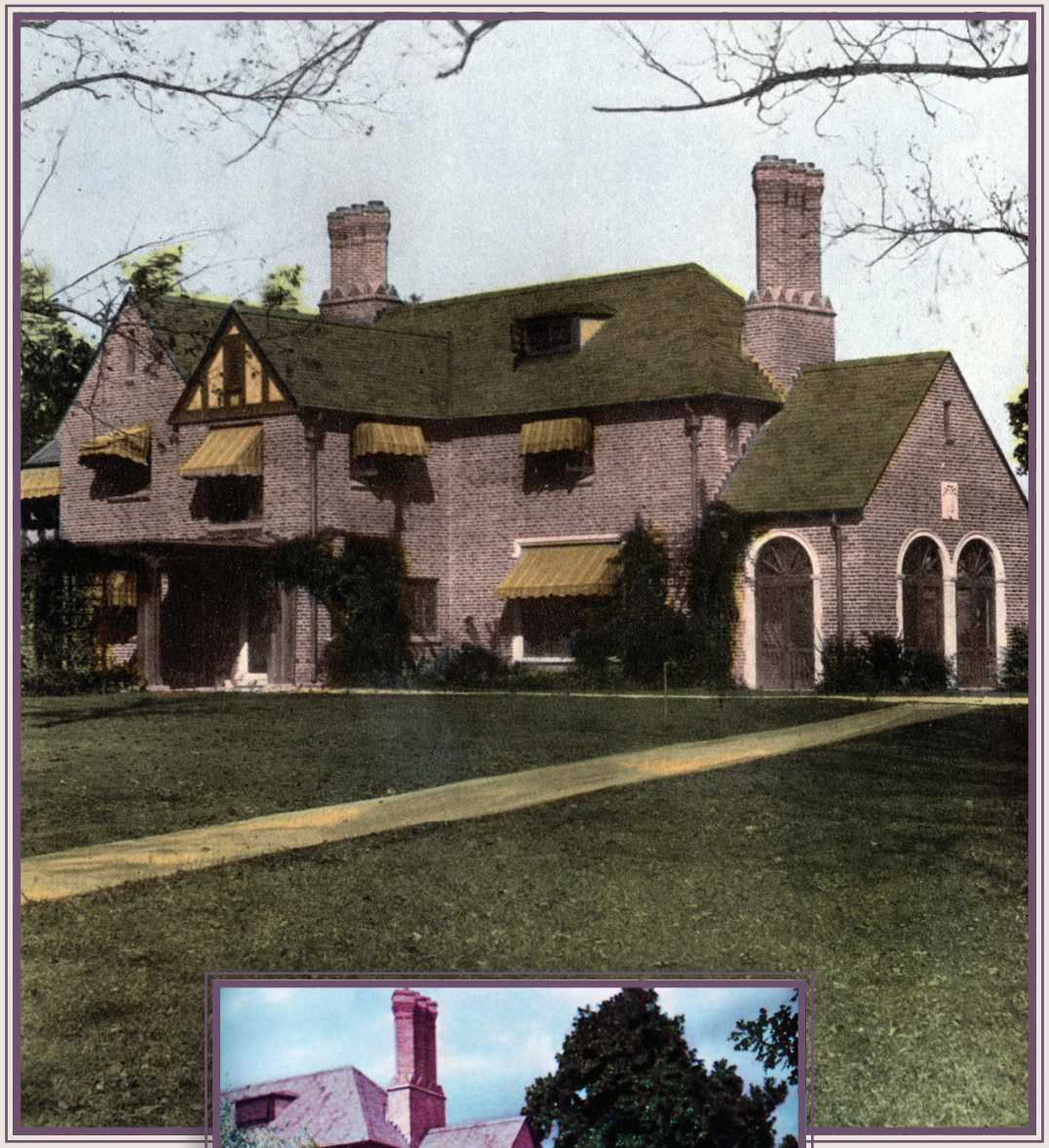


Normal School building plot plan, ca. 1911

Dairy facility, ca. 1920

Postcard view of Normal Hill, ca. 1908

Water well drilling, ca. 1910



President's Cottage, ca. 1942

Campus aerial photograph, ca. 1950

N125

Campus aerial photograph, ca. 1950

N125

Nesom Natatorium, constructed 1938

Front Gate until 1970

Bullard Hall, ca. 1950

Old Student Fieldhouse, demolished 1981

N125

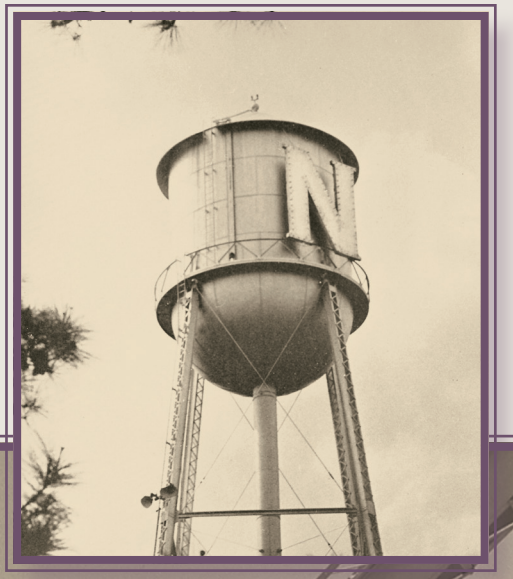
Caldwell Goldfish Pond, ca. 1970

Varnado Hall exterior and living room

Guardia Hall

N125

The last water tower on campus toppled in an effort to accommodate the rapid campus expansion during the 1960s



Campus Construction

Prudhomme Hall, 1956

Bienvenu Hall, 1970

Warrington Hall groundbreaking, 1966

Prather Coliseum, 1963

Student Union, 1966

Rapides Hall, 1966

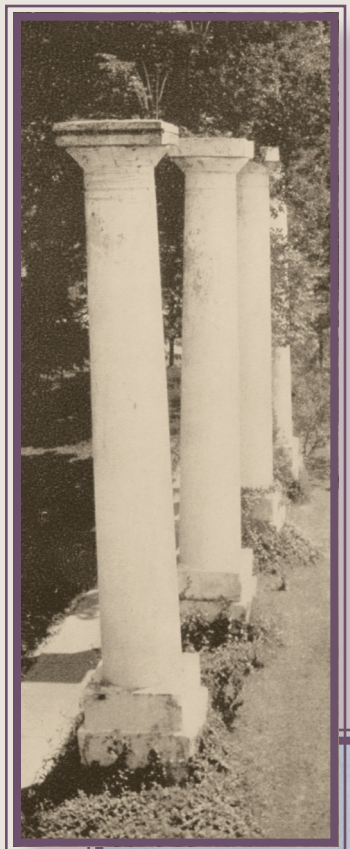
Warrington Hall, ca. 1966

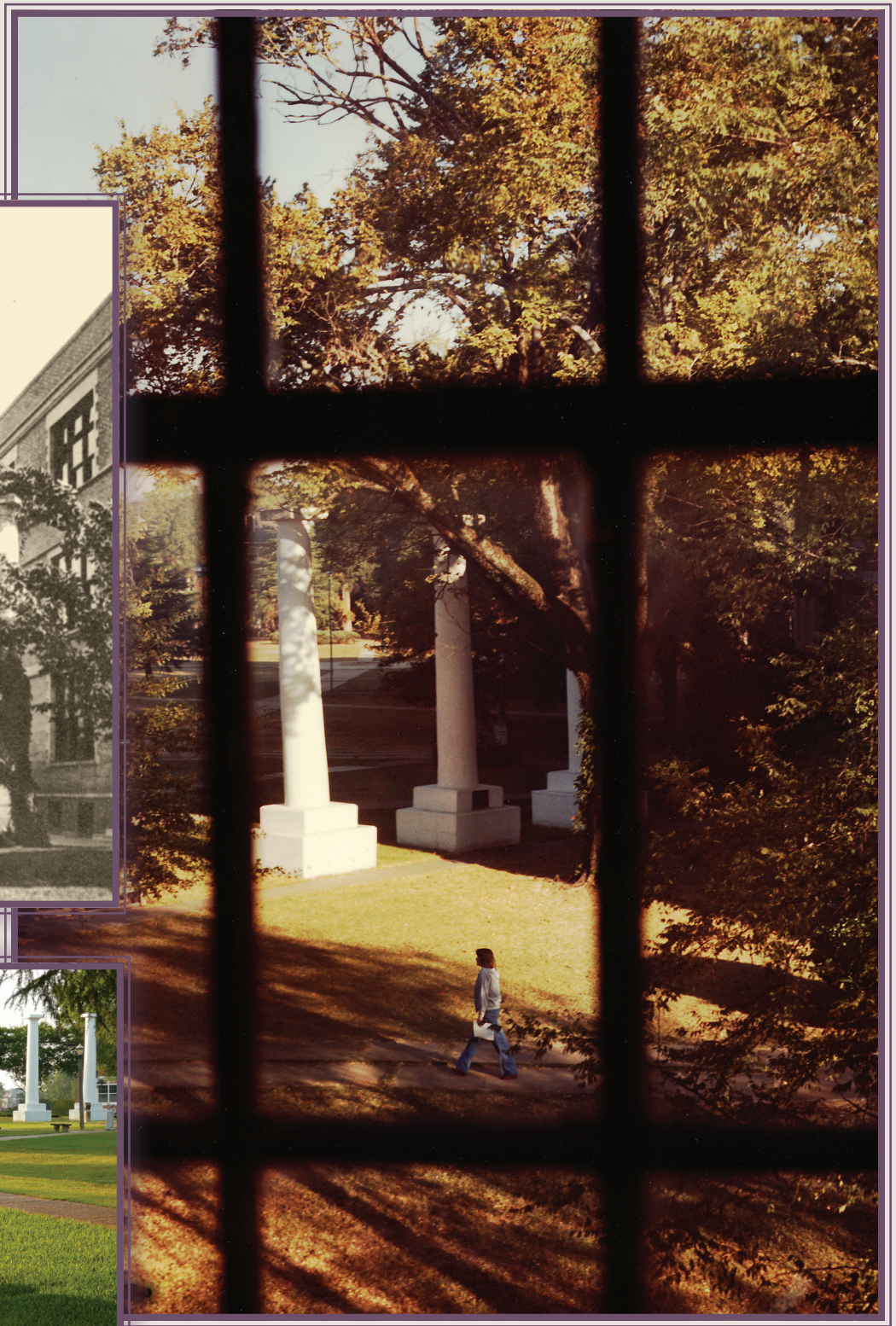
Teacher Education Center, ca. 1980

Russell Hall entrance, ca. 2000

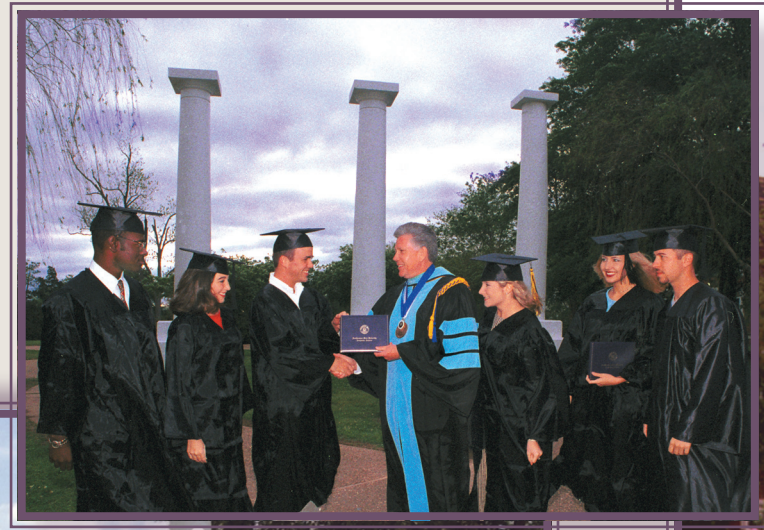
Photographic illustration of the ghost, Isabella, 1982

Bullard Mansion Columns





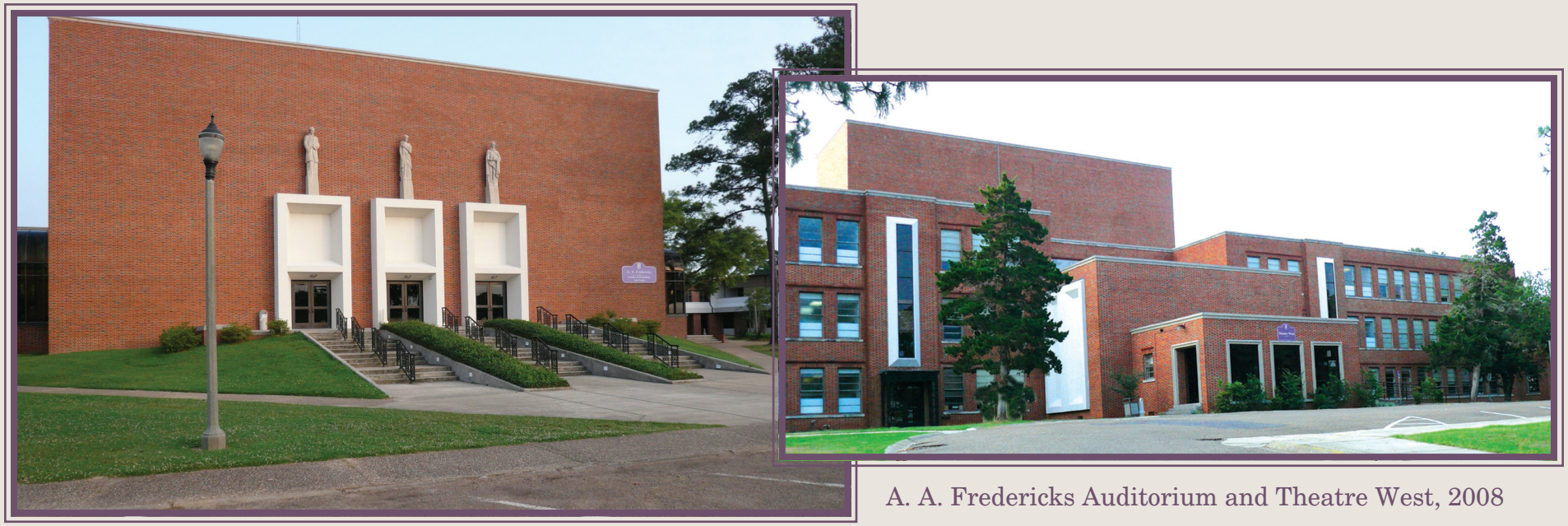
N125



N125

Walking path along Chaplin's Lake, 2007

Lee H. Nelson Hall, formerly the Women's Gymnasium, constructed in 1923 and renovated, 1997, by the National Park Service as headquarters for the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

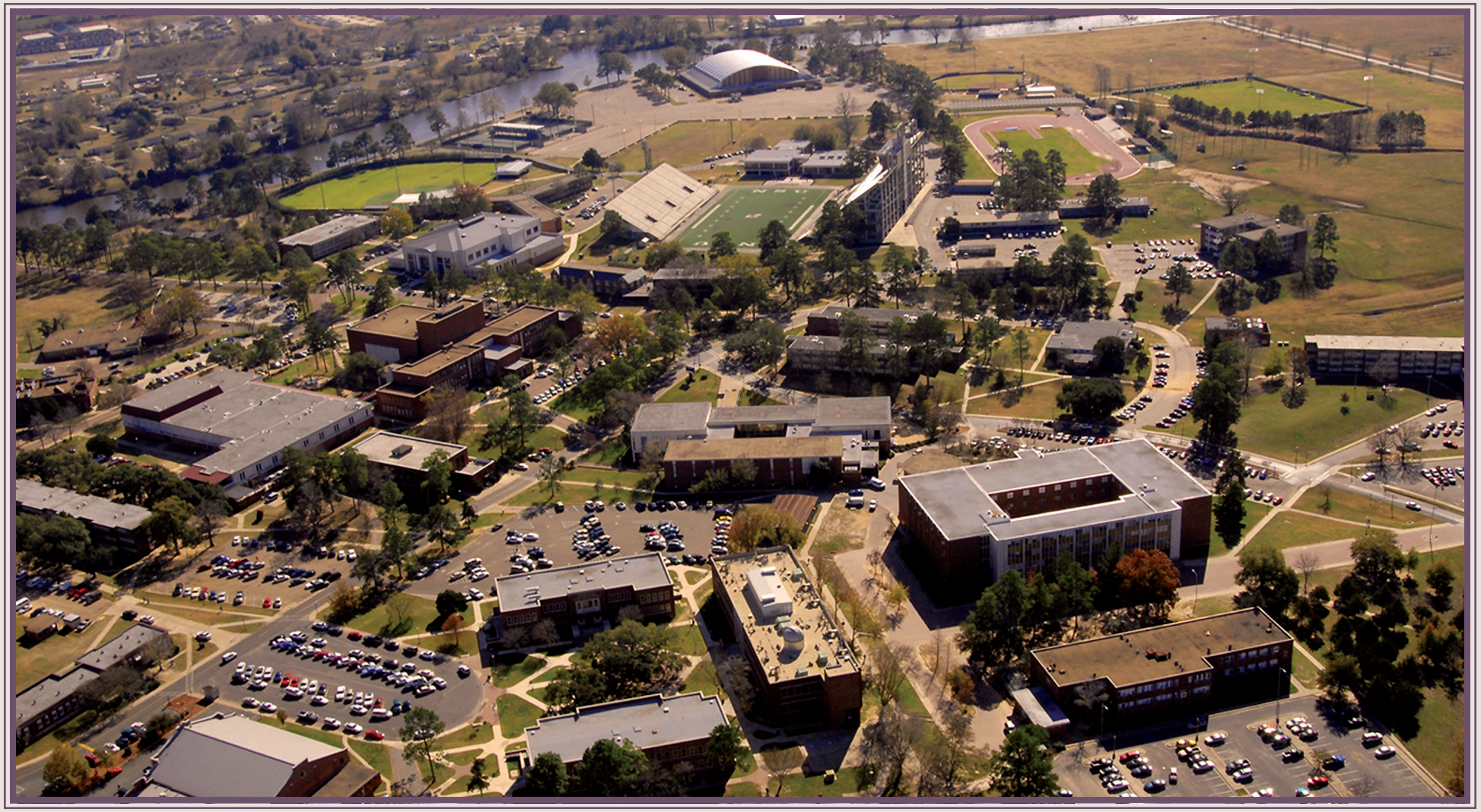


A. A. Fredericks Auditorium and Theatre West, 2008

A. A. Fredericks Creative and Performing Arts Center and Alumni Plaza, 2008

Formerly the President's Cottage, now the Alumni Center, built 1927

Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence



Campus aerial view, 2007

Kyser Hall, completed in 1968

Williamson Hall, completed in 1958; renovated in 2008

125

Morrison Hall, built in 1950, renovated in 2003 for the Louisiana Scholars' College

Family and Consumer Sciencs building, built in 1950, renovated in 2003

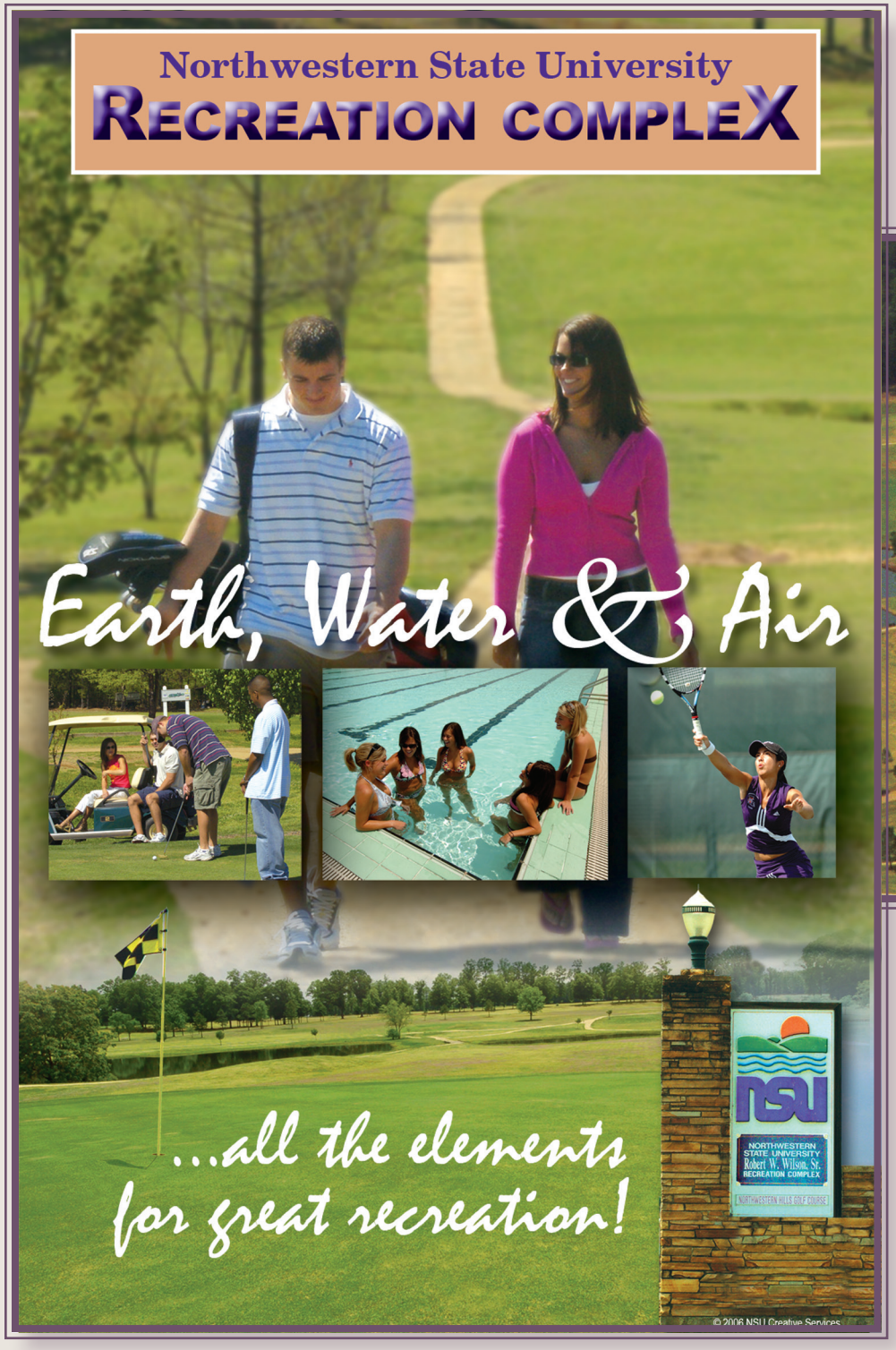
Fournet Hall, opened in 1950, renovated in 1982

Bienvenu Hall, opened 1970

Warren Easton Hall, built in 1928, renovated in 1986

Russell Hall, built in 1936, renovated in 1996

Robert W. Wilson, Sr. Recreation Complex



Friedman Student Union,
opened 1966

The former men's gym, built 1938, renovated in 2004, as a student Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center (WRAC)

N125

N125

Teacher Education Center, opened 1968

Health and Human Performance building, completed 1970

St. Denis Hall served as a cafeteria in the 1960s and was renovated in the 1990s as Business Affairs office

Prather Coliseum, opened 1963

The College of Nursing campus in Shreveport

University Place, Phase II, 2008

University Place, 2005

N125

University Columns, 1994

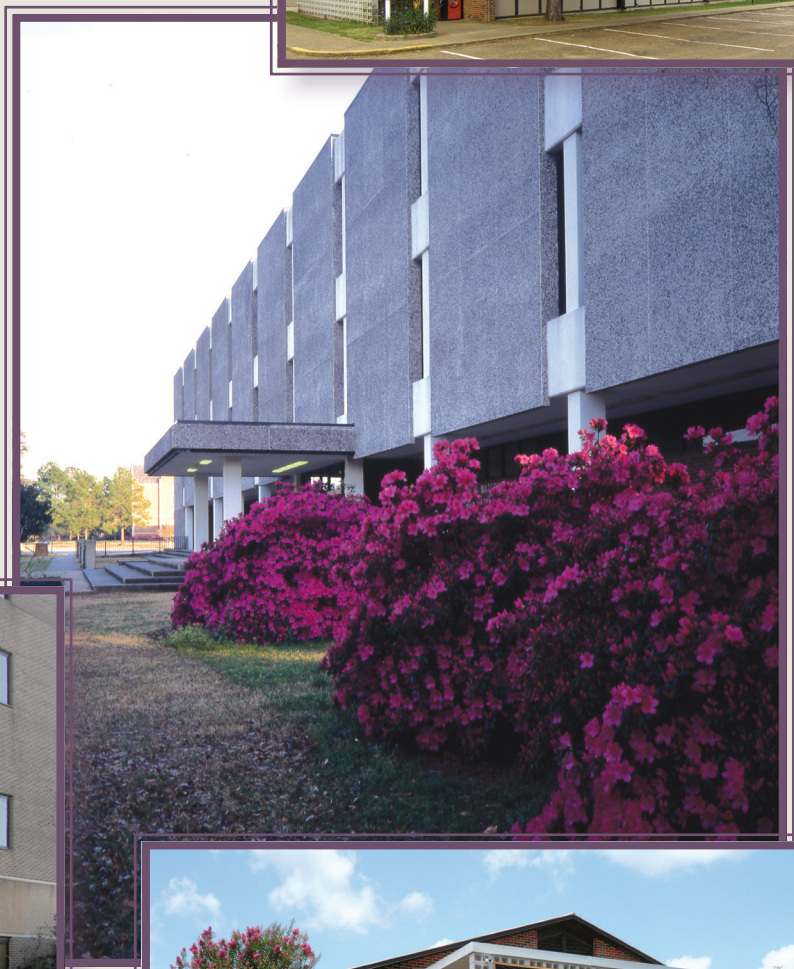
University Place, Phase I, 2007

N125

South Hall, built 1948

Roy Hall, built 1965

Watson Library,
constructed 1972



College of Nursing Shreveport campus

North Hall (Noe Military Science Building)

Main entrance to the Natchitoches campus

The Northwestern State University Alumni Hall of Distinction, The Long Purple Line

HV125

The university has honored outstanding former students since 1990 with induction into its Hall of Distinction, or Long Purple Line. The noteworthy achievements of those alumni reflect the success and accomplishments of countless others across the nation and world who prepared for lives and careers at NSU.

William J. "Bill" Dodd
1990

Mary Evelyn Parker
1991

Maj. Gen. Oris B. Johnson
1993

Marjorie Dial
1994

Adm. Ronald J. Hays
1990

H. Lee Prather
1991

Mary Gunn Johnston
1993

David Morgan
1994

Dr. Carolyn Leach Huntoon
1990

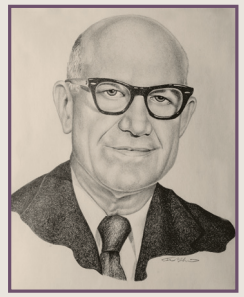
Dr. Murphy Rogers
1991

Don Kelly
1993

Dr. William V. Muse
1994

Harry "Rags" Turpin
1990

Dr. Jolly Harper
1992

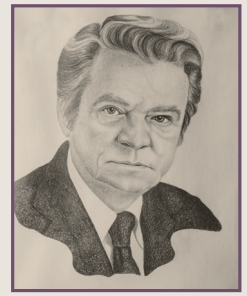


Walter Ledet
1993

Melba Law Steeg
1994

Ora G. Williams
1990

Thelma Kyser
1992



Jimmy Long
1993

Gen. Claire Lee Chennault
1995

Maj. Gen. Erbon W. Wise
1990

Maj. Gen. Guy A. J. LaBoa
1992

Dr. Charles "Red" Thomas
1993

Dr. Arnold Kilpatrick
1995

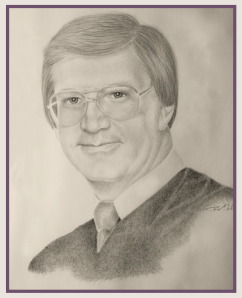
Mrs. Joanna Magale
1995

Edna Tarbutton
1997

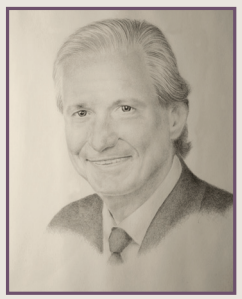
Lucile M. Hendrick
1998

Mavis Pate
1999

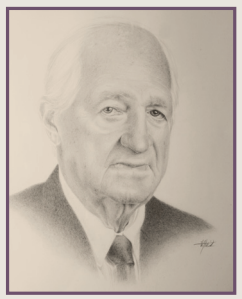
Karl W. Moore
1995



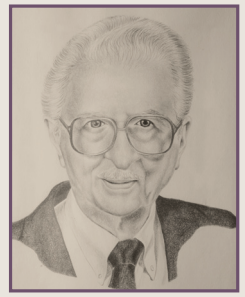
Hon. Richard Ware
1997



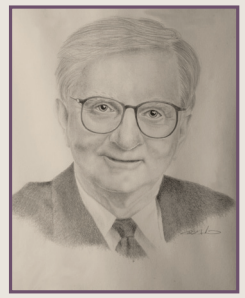
Robert F. Kelley
1998



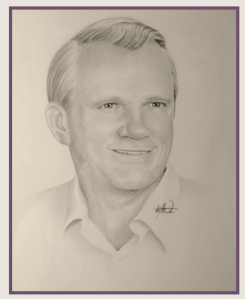
Dudley Fulton
2000



Dr. Edward C. Greco
1996



Dr. Doyle Z. Williams
1997



Daniel Lee Chase
1999

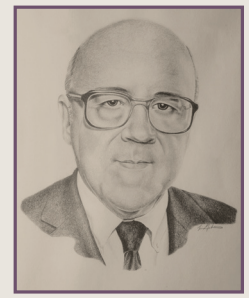
Elise P. James
2000

Bobby Harling
1996

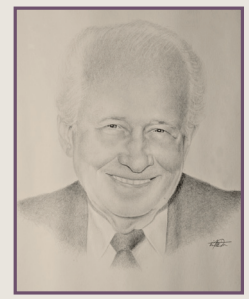
Dr. Mildred Hart Bailey
1998

Dr. Thomas L. Hennigan
1999

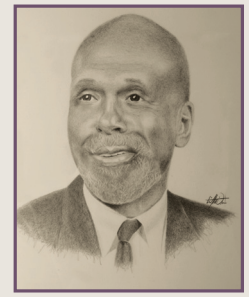
Larry W. Rivers
2000



Theodore H. Roberts
1996

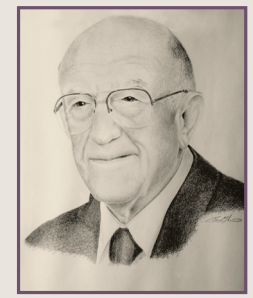


Jesse L. Boucher
1998



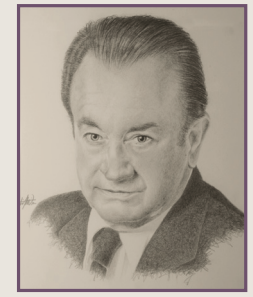
George Stanley Lewis
1999

Col. Ralph E. Ropp
2000

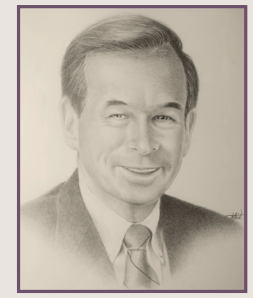


Paul “Doc” Marx
1997

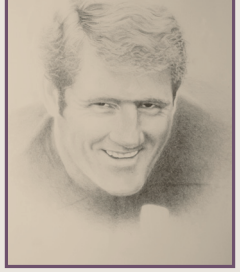
Eugene Christmas
1998



Leonard O. Nichols
1999



Joe Sampite
2000

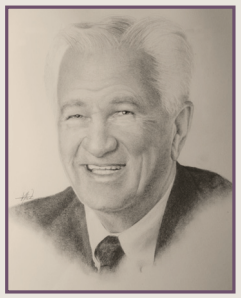


Jackie Smith
2000

Dr. A.A. Fredericks
2002

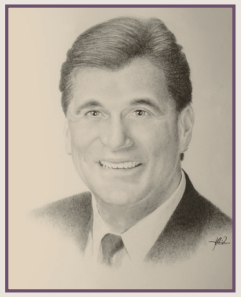
Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr.
2003

Joseph G. Dow
2004

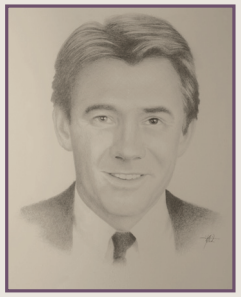


Dr. Allen R. "Buddy" Bonnette
2001

Bobby Hebert
2002

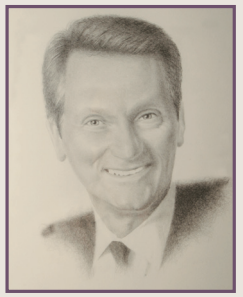


Grover Davis
2003



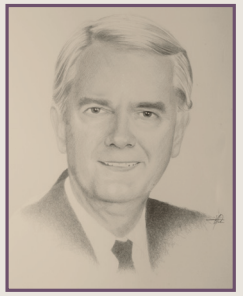
Valsin A. Marmillion
2004

Ed Bradley
2001



Charlie Ragus
2002

Gary Fields
2003



Dr. J. Michael Miller
2004

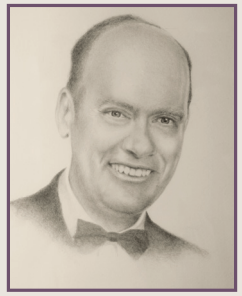
Fred Clark
2001

Raymond Strother
2002

Theodore (Ted) L. Jones
2003

Gregory B. O'Quin
2004

Hon. Rebecca F. Doherty
2001



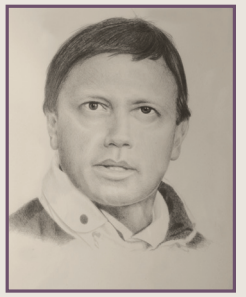
Hon. R. B. Williams
2002

Dr. Patricia Thompson
2003

Lela Mae Lea Wilkes
2004

Jimmy Patterson
2001

Cheryl Wilson
2002

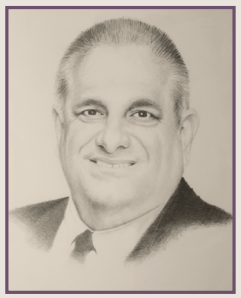


Gayle Hatch
2003

Dr. Robert Alost
2005

Ellis Coutee
Melva Juanita Martinez Coutee
2005

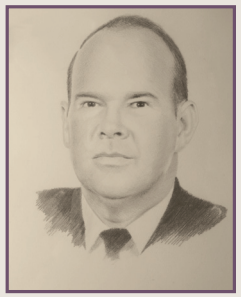
Dr. Robert Eugene Easley
2006



John A. Manno, Jr.
2007

Al Moreau
2008

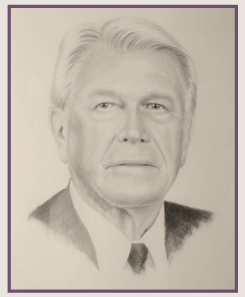
Maxine Rogé Johnson
2005



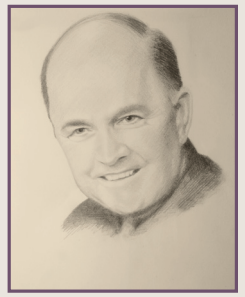
Brig. Gen. Curtis F. Hoglan
2006

Maj. Gen. Charles W. "Chuck" Thomas
2007

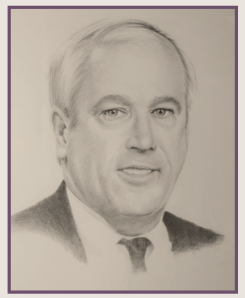
Dr. Tom Paul Southerland
Maxine Aycock Southerland
2008



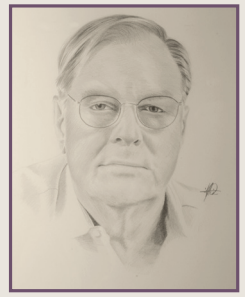
John R. McConathy
2005



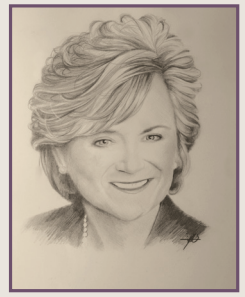
Kevin Lynch
2006



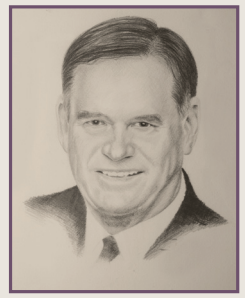
David Wright
2007



Ken Moran
2005



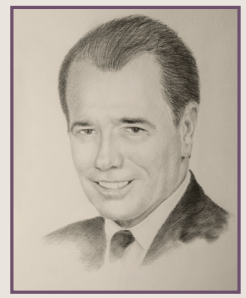
Barbara Jo Pease
2006



Dr. Robert Charles Brown
2008

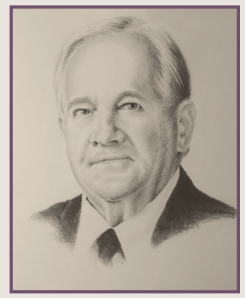
Tom F. Phillips
2005

Joe R. Salter
2006



Speedy O. Long
2008

Tom Carleton
2006

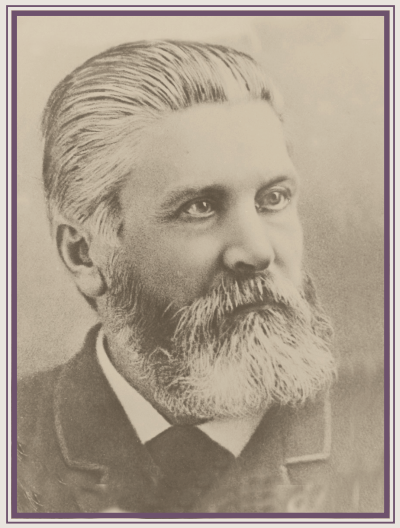


Bryant Lewis
2007

Dr. Melissa L. Lynn
2008

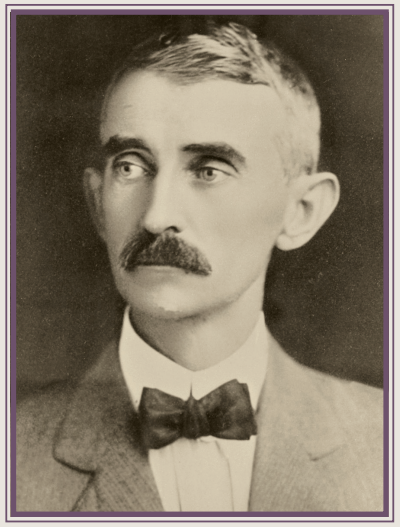
CV125

Presidents



Dr. Edward E. Sheib
1885—1888

Col. Thomas D. Boyd
1888—1896



Beverly C. Caldwell
1896—1908

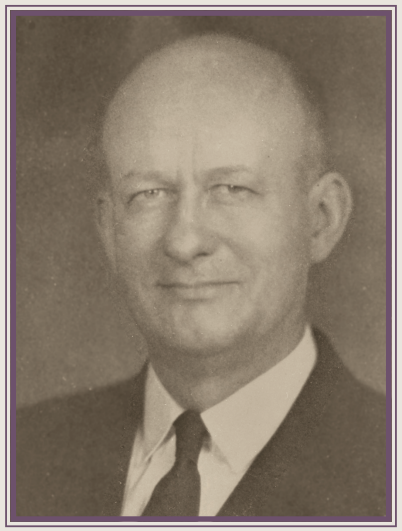
Dr. James B. Aswell
1908—1911

Victor L. Roy
1911—1929

William W. Tison
1929—1934

A.A. Fredericks
1934—1941

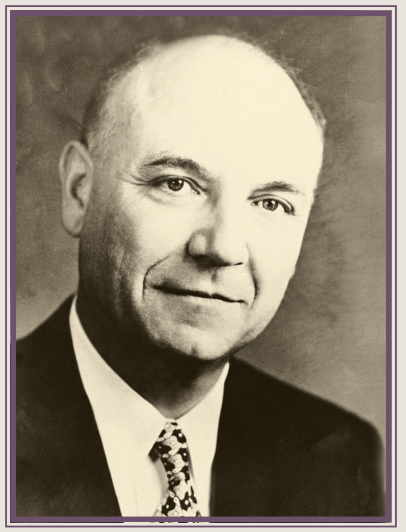
Dr. Joe Farrar
1941—1947



Joseph E. Gibson
1947—1949

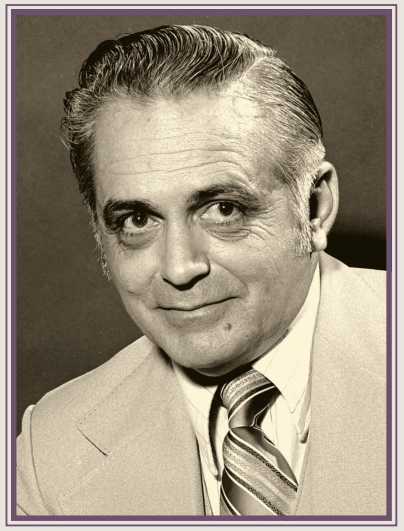
Dr. W.G. McGinty
1949—1950

H. Lee Prather
1950—1954



Dr. John S. Kyser
1954—1966

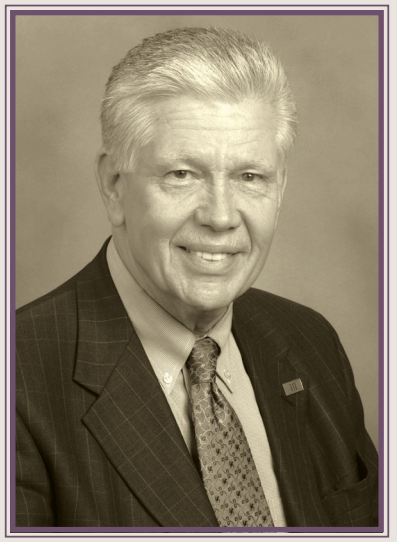
Dr. Arnold R. Kilpatrick
1966—1977



Dr. René Bienvenu
1977—1982

Dr. Joseph Orze
1982—1986

Dr. Robert A. Alost
1986—1996



Dr. Randall J. Webb
1996

CV125 Chronology

1884
- State Normal School established by Act 51 of the legislature
- Dr. Edward Sheib appointed first president

1885
- First session of Normal with an enrollment of 60 students
- First catalog published with two-year curriculum

1886
- Curriculum extended to three years

1888
- Thomas D. Boyd becomes second president

1890
- Seekers After Knowledge literary society becomes first chartered organization

1892
- Curriculum extended to four years

1894
- First President's Home constructed

1895
- Normal Building constructed; later named Boyd Hall

1896
- Beverly C. Caldwell becomes third president

1898
- East Hall women's dormitory constructed

1900
- First Model School completed on campus

1902
- West Hall women's dormitory completed

1908
- Caldwell Hall administration and classroom building constructed
- James B. Aswell becomes fourth president

1909
- First issue of *Potpourri* student yearbook is published

1910
- Building designated as "B" dormitory constructed

1911
- First marching band formed
- Victor L. Roy appointed as fifth president
- New dining hall facility constructed

1913
- Kate Chopin dormitory for women completed
- New Model School building is constructed
- Bullard Mansion demolished

1914
- Power plant is constructed
- First issue of *Current Sauce* student newspaper published

1918
- Normal School authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees

1921
- First bachelor's degrees awarded at commencement
- Name of school changed in State Constitution to Louisiana State Normal College

1922
- New men's dormitory constructed

1923
- First gymnasium built
- Agnes Morris women's dormitory completed

1924
- Demons adopted as the school's nickname

1925
- Newman Club, a Catholic student organization, formed

1926
- Baptist Student Union established
- Purple Jackets service organization established
- State Normal College receives Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation

1927
- Audubon Hall women's dormitory completed

1928
- Panhellenic Association of sororities established

1929
- New education building constructed; later becomes Warren Easton Hall
- Normal College cited as the 12th largest teacher training school in the nation
- William W. Tison appointed as sixth president

1934
- A.A. Fredericks named seventh president
- State Normal College celebrates 50th anniversary

1935
- Child Development Nursery School established

1936
- Russell Hall constructed as library; later becoming home of College of Business

1937
- Division of Business established

1939
- Football stadium constructed; later named Turpin Stadium
- Caspari Hall constructed as athletic dormitory; later became East Caspari
- Natchitoches High School, Natchitoches Trade School built on campus
- Varnado Hall women's dormitory completed

- New Infirmary opens
- New power plant built to replace old power generating facility
- Fine Arts Building completed; became A.A. Fredericks Creative and Performing Arts Center
- Football team completes first undefeated season

1940
- Men's gymnasium completed; became Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center
- Natatorium completed; became Nesom Natatorium
- Student Center constructed

1941
- Joe Farrar becomes eighth president

1943
- Campus becomes site for Navy Flight Preparatory School

1944
- Name of school changed by constitution to Northwestern State College of Louisiana

1945
- The Demonaires organized as the official college dance band

1947
- Joseph E. Gibson becomes ninth president

1949
- Nursing program established
- G.W. McGinty named as 10th president
- First clinical campus for nursing established

1950
- ROTC, military science programs established
- H. Lee Prather becomes 11th president

1954
- Northwestern becomes first college under the Louisiana State Board of Education to offer master's degrees
- Dr. John S. Kyser appointed as 12th president

1955
- Graduate School established

1956
- Special education programs initiated
- Prudhomme Hall men's dormitory completed
- First Mr. and Miss Northwestern elections conducted

1958
- Natchitoches Hall dormitory completed
- Williamson Hall science building constructed
- St. Denis Dining Hall opens

1959
- West Caspari Hall men's dormitory completed
- Blue Key National Honor Fraternity established
- Northwestern celebrates 75th anniversary

1961
- Caddo Hall dormitory completed

1963
- Prather Coliseum constructed
- Louisiana Hall dormitory completed
- Bossier Hall dormitory opens

1964
- Roy Hall administration building completed

1965
- Northwestern achieves racial integration with the admission of African-American students for the first time

1966
- Sabine Hall women's dormitory opens
- Rapides Hall men's dormitory opens
- Iberville Dining Hall opens
- Student Union construction completed
- Dr. Arnold R. Kilpatrick becomes 13th president
- Football team has second undefeated season in history

1967
- Guardia Hall classroom building destroyed by fire
- Nursing campus in Shreveport completed
- Gymnastics team wins national championships in AAU and NAIA

1968
- Kyser Hall classroom building completed
- Doctoral programs in education established
- Continuing education programs initiated

1969
- Teacher Education Center opens
- Northwestern begins offering programs at England Air Force Base

1970
- College of Basic Studies established
- Name of school changed by legislature to Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Health and Human Performance building completed
- Aviation science program established
- Biological sciences building completed; later named Bienvenu Hall

1971
- New President's Home built on campus
- Master's and associate degree programs established in nursing

1972
- Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library completed
- Graduate "N" Club Hall of Fame established

1974
- Fort Polk donates 160 acres to NSU for development of campus on base

1976
- Work begins on Northwestern Recreation Complex golf course and swimming pool
- Fort Polk campus buildings open
- NSU athletics become part of NCAA Division 1

1977
- *Argus* literary magazine established
- Athletic Field House built and Turpin Stadium expanded

1978
- Dr. Rene J. Bienvenu becomes 14th president
- NSU Press established

1979
- First NSU-Natchitoches Folk Festival held on campus

1980
- Old campus quadrangle listed on National Register of Historic Places

1982
- Dr. Joseph J. Orze becomes 15th president
- Caldwell Hall destroyed by fire
- Expansion and renovation of A.A. Fredericks Creative and Performing Arts Center completed

1983
- Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts established on NSU campus

1984
- Northwestern celebrates its Centennial

1985
- Historic old President's Cottage renovated as Alumni Center
- New nursing education center opens at College of Nursing in Shreveport

1986
- Dr. Robert Alost becomes 16th president
- NSU Recreation Complex dedicated in memory of Robert W. Wilson, Sr.
- Two new academic buildings open on Fort Polk campus

1987
- Louisiana Scholars' College established

1988
- Student Union named in memory of former Sen. Sylvan Friedman
- The movie *Steel Magnolias* is filmed in Natchitoches and at Northwestern

1989
- NSU rowing teams established
- Business Administration Building named in memory of Noble B. Morrison

1992
- NSU tennis complex named in memory of Jack Fisher
- Northwestern designated as site for National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

1993
- NSU debate team wins national championship

1996
- Dr. Randall J. Webb appointed 17th president

1997
- Russell Hall renovation completed

1998
- Students approve fee to build Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center at site of Men's Gymnasium
- Demon football team advances to Division I-AA semifinals

2001
- Demon basketball team makes NCAA Tournament for the first time
- Renovation of the former Women's Gymnasium completed as headquarters of National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- Student team wins first national championship in systems analysis

2002
- Major General (Ret.) Erbon W. Wise and his wife Marie donate $400,000 to create a $1 million endowed chair in journalism
- Northwestern places first bachelor's program online
- Enrollment exceeds 10,000 students for the first time
- Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is part of the NSU Homecoming parade

2003
- Renovations completed for Morrison Hall and the Family and Consumer Sciences Building

2004
- ROTC Program rated in the top 10 percent in the nation
- University begins first capital campaign with goal of $18.84 million

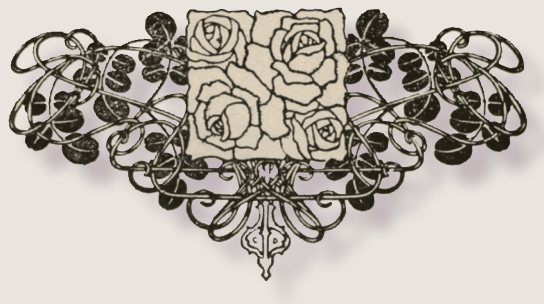
2005
- Northwestern moves to selective admissions
- Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center and University Place I residence hall completed

2006
- Demon basketball team upsets Iowa in NCAA Tournament
- Northwestern awards a record 1,567 degrees in 2005-06 academic year

2007
- University completes first capital campaign, raising more than $34 million

2008
- Northwestern's band named one of the top eight in the country by the Web site www.collegeotr.com
- NSU gets $4.4 million from a mineral lease on property in DeSoto Parish

2009
- *Potpourri* celebrates 100th anniversary
- Williamson Hall renovation project completed
- Miss Northwestern – Lady of the Bracelet Pageant celebrates 50th anniversary
- Northwestern celebrates 125th anniversary
- President's Residence named in honor of Dr. Arnold R. Kilpatrick



Jerry Pierce is vice-president for external affairs and assistant professor of journalism at Northwestern. A 1961 NSU journalism graduate, he worked at *The Times Picayune* in New Orleans before returning to Northwestern. Pierce has written for *The Natchitoches Times* and other newspapers and the statewide magazine *Louisiana Country*, winning a number of awards for general interest columns, features, sports columns, editorials and news stories. He is author of a book entitled *Prayer Meetings and Pink Corduroys* and co-editor of a book on the movie *Steel Magnolias*. He also wrote a chapter for a book on journalism education icon John Merrill.

Steve Horton is associate provost and dean of the Graduate School at Northwestern. A fourth-generation Northwestern graduate, he also earned graduate degrees in journalism and education from Louisiana State University while a faculty member in NSU's Department of Journalism. Dr. Horton has authored or co-authored over 50 scholarly works and maintains an active involvement in the University and Natchitoches communities.

Don Sepulvado serves as director of informational services and NSU Press at Northwestern. After a professional career in photography, he earned a degree in Advertising Design from NSU in 1984. Working as a graphic designer, he has produced over 30 books and numerous recruiting brochures and publications for Northwestern. As a photographer he documented folk culture throughout Louisiana. His photographs were exhibited at the 1984 World's Fair and have appeared in over 60 publications, including a catalog by the Museum of Modern Art and a book by the Smithsonian Institution. He is co-author of *Cane River Country*, a book about Natchitoches Parish.

Tom Whitehead is professor emeritus of journalism at Northwestern. He graduated in 1967 from NSU and received a master's degree from Boston University in 1969. He then joined the faculty in journalism here and taught 30 years retiring in 1969. He co-edited *The Steel Magnolias Scrapbook* and *Clementine Hunter: The African House Murals*. His writings and knowledge about Clementine Hunter have brought him recognition as the preeminent scholar on the Natchitoches area folk artist. He was the Production Location Consultant on *Steel Magnolias,* filmed here in 1988. Today he continues working part-time at the university on special projects.

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